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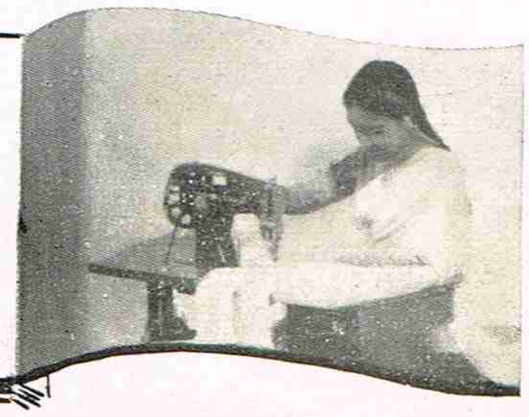

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Editor : B A B U R A O P A T E L

Vol XXII NOVEMBER, 1956 No 11

22nd YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Rameshchandra Khandekar.
Bulia's paga.
Indore. M.P.

Dragon's Teeth

It was exactly 21 years ago—on October 13, 1935—at the Yeola Conference of the Depressed Classes that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar told his audience of 10,000 Harijans: "I was born a Hindu but I solemnly assure you that I will not die a Hindu."

21 years later, on October 14, 1956, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism at Nagpur, followed by 300,000 of his followers, and while doing so he said, "By discarding my ancient religion which stood for inequality and oppression today I am reborn. I have no faith in the philosophy of incarnation and it is wrong and mischievous to say that the Buddha was the incarnation of Vishnu. I will no more be a devotee of any Hindu God or Goddess. I will not perform "shraddha". I will discard the caste system and spread equality among human beings. I will strictly follow the eight-fold path of the Buddha. Buddhism is a true religion and I will be guided by the three principles of knowledge, right path and compassion."

Dr. Ambedkar, the great scholar, was bluffing, not himself we hope, but those around him knowing fully well that people know so little of religions, their origins, their development and distortions through ages and the varying effects of these changes on man and his history. Dr. Ambedkar knows that essentially no religion "stood for inequality and oppression", not even Islam—the rugged religion born and nursed in the cradle of a dry and hot desert. No religion can ever be founded on those two viciously shaky legs of inequality and oppression. Those legs are attached to religion by power-crazy men for their own vile purpose. Religion by itself can never be oppressive. It becomes dangerous only when men mix it up with ignorance, ritual, politics and power. Thus man turns this milk of the soul into a poison that vitiates his physical existence on earth with endless hatreds.

Had Dr. Ambedkar condemned the Brahmins, who gave the Hindu religion a bad name because of their perverted Brahminism, we would have supported the learned scholar even though it is rather late in the day to dig out the Brahmin worm and crush it for the umpteenth time with a modern democratic boot. But Hinduism as a religion is not all Brahminism. Hinduism has been an eternal fountain of human thought and philosophy and while millions were content to swim in its reservoirs, some like the Buddha bathed in its flying sprays and sat out to think differently on the problems of life and in doing so added new colours to the flying waters of the original fountain. Buddhism is not thus another religion but one more child of the mother religion—Hinduism.

On its philosophic side, the doctrine of Buddha, looks like pronounced pessimism because of its deep-rooted conviction that all earthly existence is suffering and the only means of release from such an existence is the abandonment of all desire. Even for this fundamental doctrine, Buddha gets his inspiration from the Upanishads—particularly Yajnavalkya's Brhadaranyaka Upanishad. The metaphysical side of Buddhism seems to have taken its foundations from the Sankhya philosophy.

That is a heavy handicap but youth carries any handicap and yet wins the race. Padmini brings some exciting dances to the screen in "Quaidi", a romantic tale.

It was, however, in the human aspect that Buddhism broke away from Brahminism and became a religion of humanity. Like other religions Buddhism was also given various shapes, shades and twists in various countries according to the different needs of different people at different times but primitive Buddhism was a system of practical morality, universal charity, kindness to all beings—men and animals. It is here that the originality of Buddha's teaching is chiefly to be found; for the sphere of ethics had been almost completely neglected by Brahmin thought, which was mainly directed to ritual and theosophical spe-

culation. And this perhaps explains the profound influence exercised by Buddhism as a world religion. But in its essence Buddhism is but a child of Hinduism and when Dr. Ambedkar thunders that he won't die a Hindu he merely rejects the old mother's lap and chooses the daughter's little lap to make his exit.

We have no objection to this. Nor do we object if the whole country adopts Buddhism as Dr. Ambedkar would have us do. And if Dr. Ambedkar's missionary zeal, usually seen in all neo-converts, can also convert our 40 million rowdy Muslims to Buddhism and consequently to a peaceful way of life, we will bless the name of Ambedkar for centuries, for to dissolve the communal poison of 40 million Muslims into a common bowl of religion and turn it into a sweet nectar of peace and harmony would be one of the greatest miracles in the world.

Dr. Ambedkar therefore becoming a Buddhist is not a loss to Hinduism. It is a gain because in trying to play a good Buddhist, with the enthusiasm of a neo-convert, the learned Doctor would end as a better Hindu.

Dr. Ambedkar, being what is usually known as a super-intellectual, makes a bad follower of any religion. To be religious one requires a little humility. One must at least accept the existence of God if no human being as superior. Dr. Ambedkar disowned God in Parliament on May 1, 1956, in the following words: "I do not believe in God and I have no soul."

It pays to be a comedian. So many girls throw themselves at the man, thinking themselves to be safe. Noor did the same thing but Johnny Walker turned round and married her. Now Minoo Mumtaz is getting friendly, forgetting the Islamic license for four in a home. But it may not be that in "Mai Baap" produced by Sadiq Productions.

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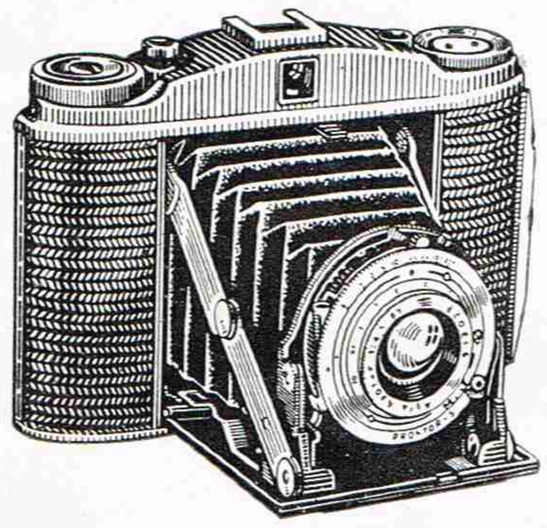

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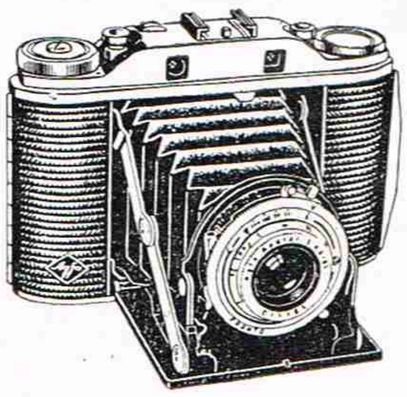

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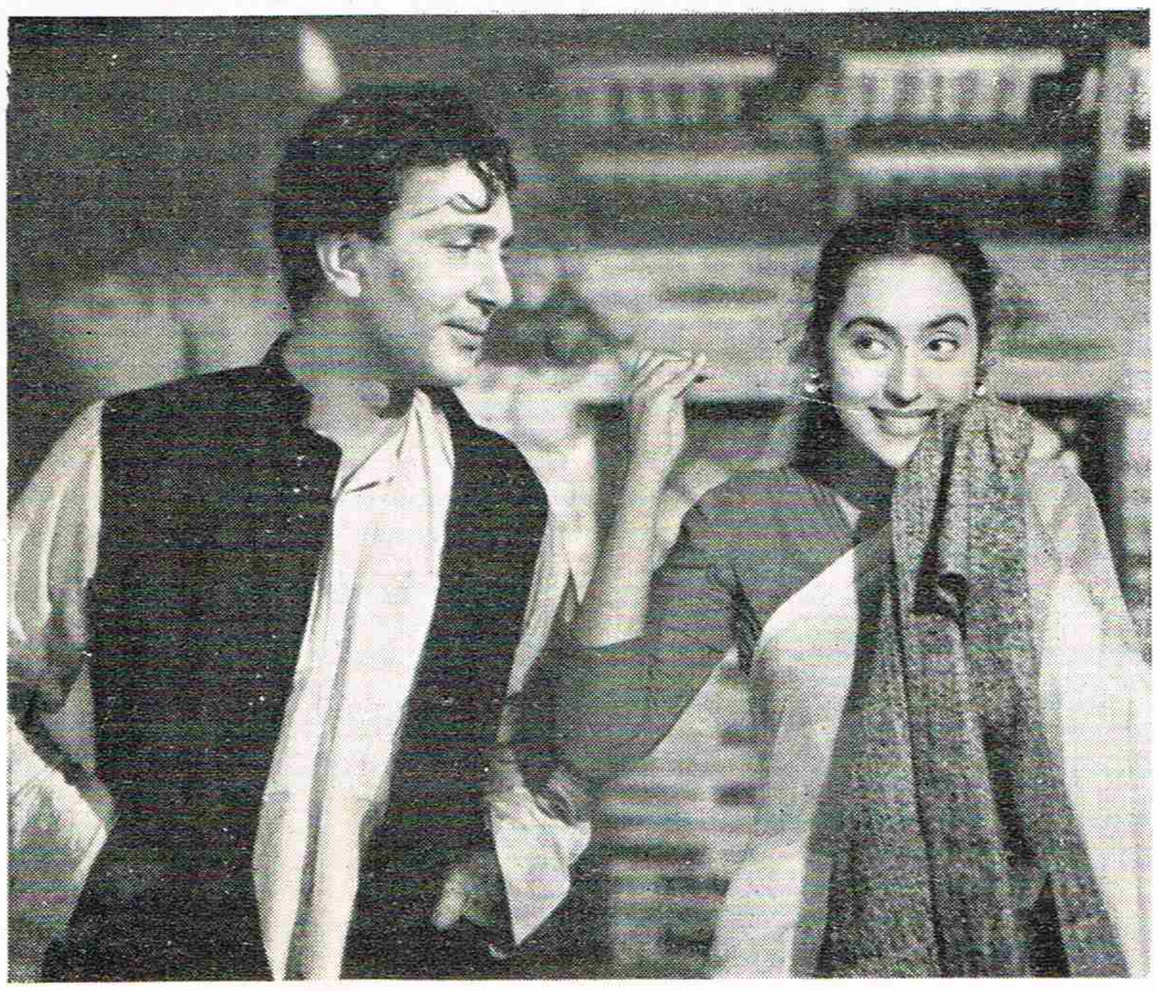

Men like to lose their buttons to see women making a fuss over new ones. Women, however, have never cared to find out why men lose their buttons so often seeing that male buttons hold nothing hard and tight. Here is a domestic sequence between Balraj and Nutan in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a social theme.

A man who has no soul and does not believe in God does not need a religion. He needs only a book of hygiene and Dr. Schussler's twelve tissue remedies to keep his parts functioning.

No one can deny Dr. Ambedkar's great scholarship. But he seems to have read the scriptures only to find pegs to hang his hatred of caste Hindus, not to discover the spiritual beauties of Hindu religion. Dr. Ambedkar has never been in search of a soul or peace or religion or God. He could not stumble over these things because the path he chose was of blind hatred and in this path one doesn't find soul, peace and religion. They are milestones on the path of love.

Dr. Ambedkar loves no one—not even himself. Hatred has so completely permeated his life that even at the age of 65 while becoming a Buddhist, he bitterly condemned the religion of his mother's womb and Dr. M.B. Niyogi, former Chief Justice of Nagpur High Court who also became a Buddhist, had to restore good taste and solemnity to the occasion by stating that denunciation of Hinduism had no place in the original Buddhist rituals.

There is a lot of good reason for Dr. Ambedkar's hatred. He was badly treated by the caste Hindus, particularly by the Brahmins, at every stage in his life. His great scholarship was gained after surmounting heart-breaking obstacles. But the few men like his father Subedar Ramji, Krishnaji Keluskar, H.H. Sayajirao Gaekwad, S.K. Bole and others who helped him were also Hindus with a soul and God of their own.

And did the caste Hindus—the villains of Hindu history—pick upon Ambedkar alone for showering their venom? Not at all! The tyranny of the caste Hindus was a sad phase of Hindu history which the unfortunate lower castes could not escape. The father of the writer of this article was refused admission to his law college in Poona by the great Lokmanya Tilak himself, in spite of being a poor, brilliant and deserving student. It hurt him then and it hurt him more and more as he worked for months to pay off the loan which he had taken to meet the expenses of going to Poona. But did Lokmanya Tilak stop him from being a lawyer? And did his anger turn into a permanent hatred and blind his good sense? No! He is still a good Hindu at 84 and though the distance between him and his Maker is now very short, he does not feel a necessity of denying his soul, disowning God or becoming a Buddhist. Hinduism has given him all the peace he wanted in life and not once did he feel the need of making a mockery of his religion. Hinduism also taught him to turn anger into tolerance.

Hinduism could have done the same thing for Dr. Ambedkar also but he was never in search of a religion. Nor is he seeking religion or salvation now in embracing

---

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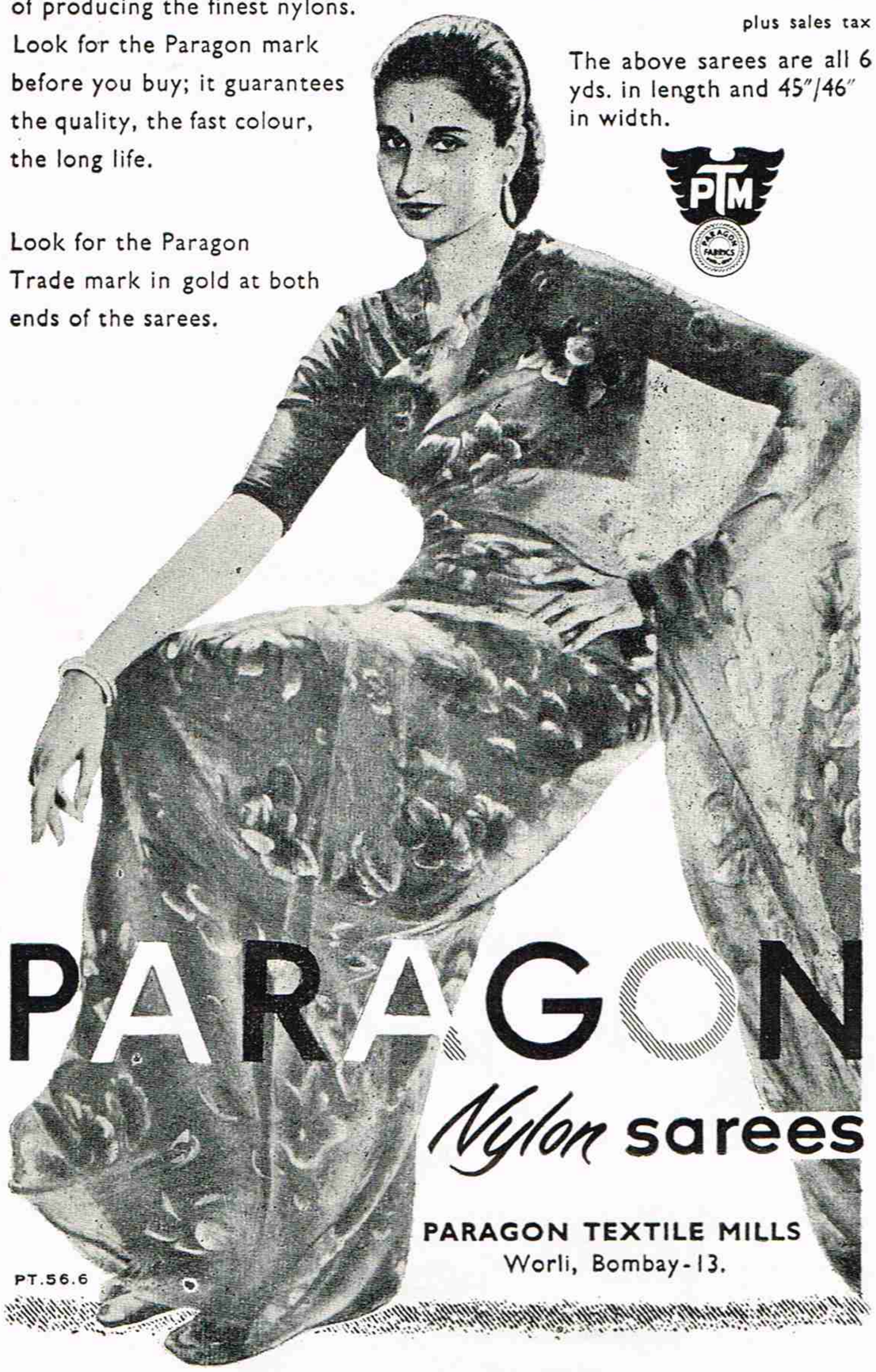

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Buddhism. Dr. Ambedkar is seeking political rehabilitation. A man of Dr. Ambedkar's age and scholarship could change his religion only on two grounds:

(1) Intense conviction that there is greater peace, fuller satisfaction of the soul and an earlier chance of salvation in the new religion than in the old one.

(2) Better opportunity to use the new religion for some social or political purpose and to become more effective personally.

The first reason is out of the question in the case of Dr. Ambedkar who, by his own confession, does not believe either in soul or in God. His religion for 65 years has been hatred.

The second reason seems probable with the war horse of politics being tied these days in the same stable with the chariot horse of religion.

There are over 200 million Buddhists in the world without counting the new Ambedkarites. They are distributed as follows:

Republic of China	..	150,000,000
Burma	..	16,150,000
Siam	..	15,581,240
Ceylon	..	5,217,143
Indonesia	..	1,000,000
Japan	..	20,050,300
North America	..	165,000
South America	..	135,000
Europe	..	10,000
India	..	180,767
Total		208,489,450

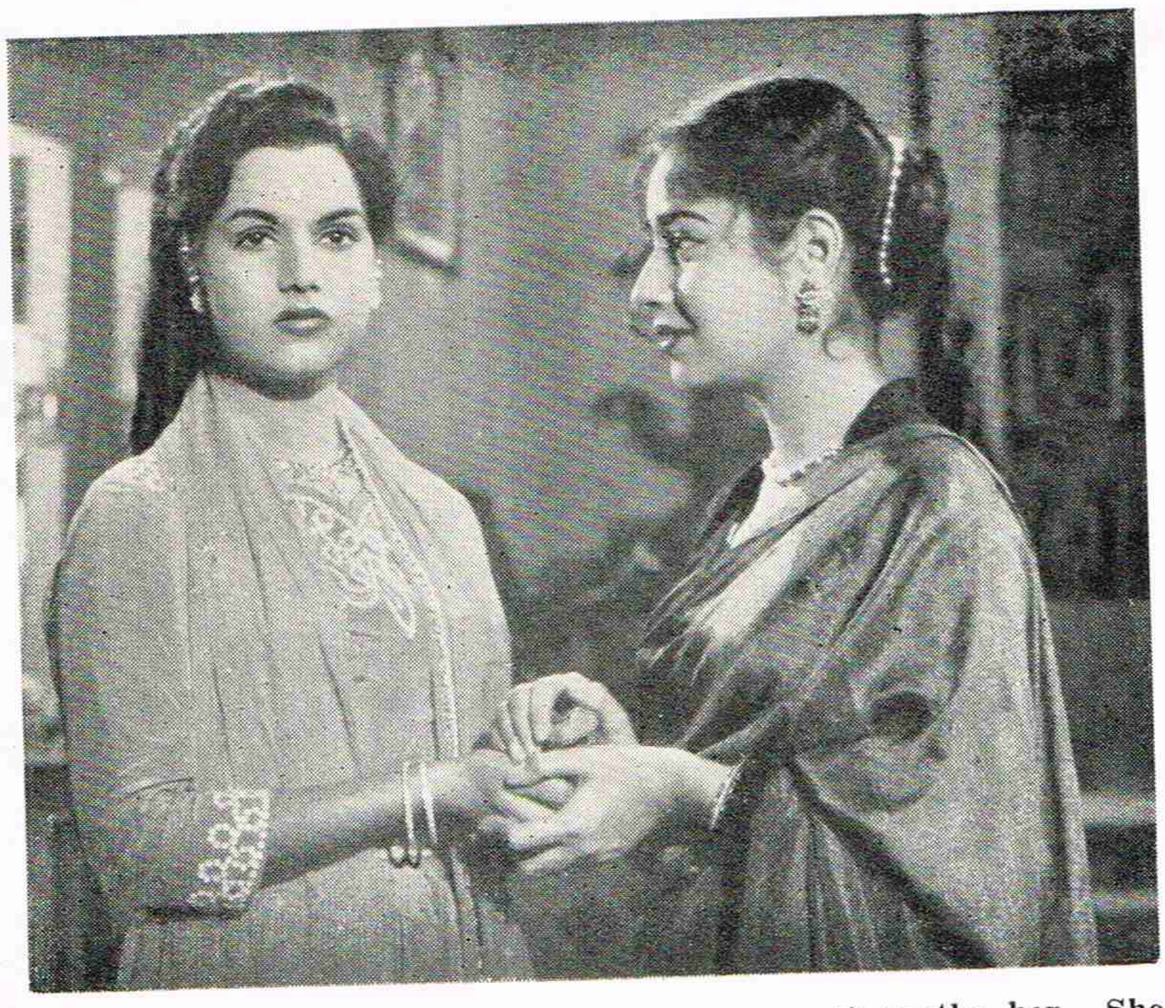
Over 180 million of these Buddhists are Communists, the biggest group of 150 million Chinese being within an arm's length of India.

Do these numbers tell a story? A man who has lived by hatred all his life can even burn his own home so that in the light of his burning home people may see the owner of the home.

Mahomed Ali Jinnah was one such man. He lived by hatred and burnt his home merely to put his name into the pages of history.

It is too early to accuse Dr. Ambedkar of anything like that today. And we are not doing so. Dr. Ambedkar has been a patriotic Hindu in not embracing Islam during 20 long years in spite of great pressure and many inducements. The Sikhs and the Christians also chased him for years.

When some of his followers advised him to embrace one of these religions, Dr. Ambedkar said, "We are fully conscious of the fact that go anywhere we will, we would have to fight for our welfare if we took to Christianity or



When a woman is hurt another woman cannot soothe her. She demands nothing less than the man who inflicted the wound. And that man must be at her feet, of course making love. Shyama and Chand Usmani face a ticklish situation in "Duniya Rang Rangeli", a social theme produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

Islam. It is foolish to suppose that in the event of our conversion to Islam everybody from amongst us would be a Nawab or would become a Pope if we went over to Christianity. Go we may anywhere, fight is inevitably in store for us." (Page 254—"Dr. Ambedkar, Life & Mission" by Dhananjay Keer)

But this was not what kept him away from these foreign religions in the face of pressure and with mounting personal frustration. Referring to the Muslim religion he said, "If there are any people with whom religious sentiments and practices make it extremely risky to interfere, they are the Muslims." (Page 250, Ibid)

The learned Doctor could not condemn or abuse Islam and Christianity according to his seasonal whims without getting his neck broken or back stabbed.

It took him therefore twenty years to find a new religion nearest in spirit and identity with his old religion. Buddhism is a religion as liberal and generous as Hinduism and Dr. Ambedkar can afford to lose patience with it on any constipated day without having to face a fanatical assassin.

But there is a difference between Buddhism of olden days and Buddhism of today. Buddhism today is the property of the villains of Communism and there is woven in it a design for proletarian tyranny.

Buddhism seems to have provided a good cementing force and helped Communists to consolidate their empire in China. The Chinese Communists have used this religion as their main instrument of political conquest because Buddhism is not interested in politics and does not bother about monarchy, democracy, Communism or any other ism of politics.

The Chinese Communists are already using Buddhism for political purposes in Burma very effectively. If Dr. Ambedkar cares to visit Rangoon, with his expert political nose he can smell what is cooking.

What is happening in Burma can happen in India. Dr. Ambedkar, while he is living, may not permit his neo-Buddhists to walk into the Communist trap. But if Dr. Ambedkar succeeds and we hope he doesn't, in converting his 60 million Harijans to Buddhism, he will automatically leave behind a willing army of so many frustrated neo-Buddhists for the hordes of Communism.

The Hindu patriot that waved away Muslims and Christians for twenty years in the greater interest of his country should seriously think over this new dangerous aspect of his Buddhism before he asks another Hindu to become a Buddhist.

For though the roots of Buddhism are in India, its leaves and branches provide today shelter to the gangsters of Communism and to that extent Buddhism today suffers a taint.

"Girnar",

17-10-1956. Baburao Patel.

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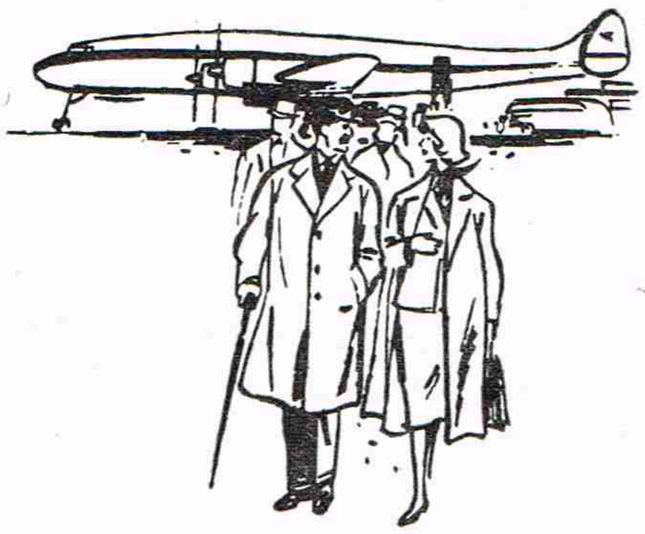

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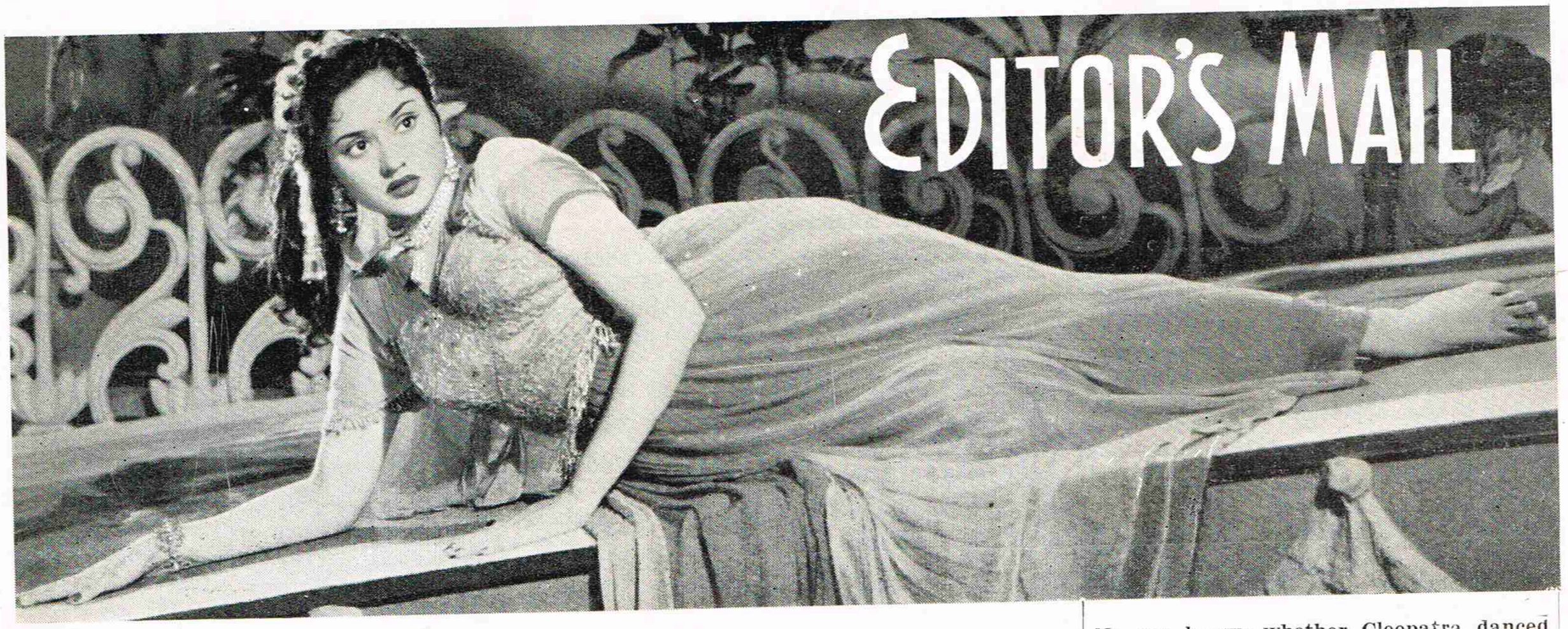


No one knows whether Cleopatra danced or not. We only know that she had long legs which caught Caesar and she often stretched herself like this to show those long legs. Vyjayantimala goes one better than Cleopatra. She dances in "Sitaron-se-Aagey" produced by Narasu Studios.

(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Does Dilip Kumar speak fluent French?

No, he doesn't and that is why he lost a lot of weight during his recent European trip. He couldn't make words punctuate his physical exploits. Words provide a lot of rest in romance.

Who is P. M. Lad?

That is the sick liver of our Information Ministry. It makes even the bald Minister suffer from jaundice and the bald guy sees everything yellow.

I like tall women?

What about your own inches?

What is Nimmi's view on matrimony?

She likes a multi-millionaire's view on an important matter of capitalizing one's physical assets.

When Prithviraj prays?

He expects God to applaud. Everything is a performance with Prithvi.

Do you take Dr. Radhakrishnan seriously?

No one takes him seriously. A man on his honeymoon with fortune merely amuses.

I pity Kantilal Morarji Desai?

You can use some of the pity for yourself. Kantilal has a bank balance of seven figures and two beautiful Mercedes-Benz cars.

Why do lawyers wear black?

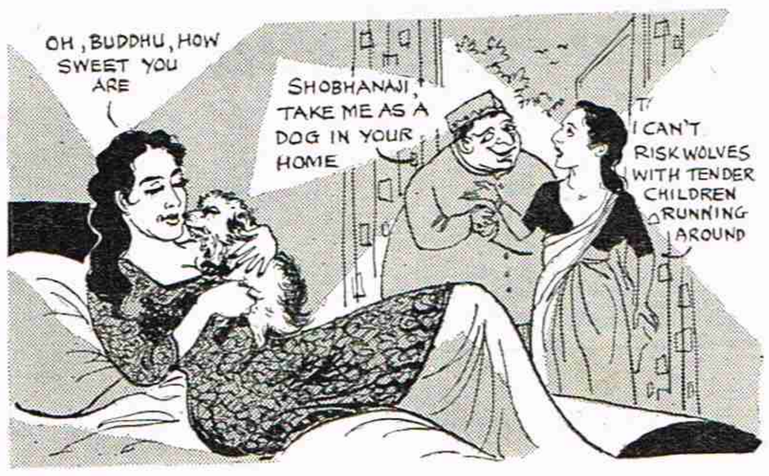
The British gave even justice a decent burial. Their natural love of the theatrical turned every death into a pageant.

What is charming in Usha Kiran?

The bait of her youth attracted once. Now a doctor has swallowed it.

What is the advantage of being a dog?

Visit Nutan and see.


OH, BUDDHU, HOW SWEET YOU ARE
SHOBHANAJI, TAKE ME AS A DOG IN YOUR HOME
I CAN'T RISK WOLVES WITH TENDER CHILDREN RUNNING AROUND

Do Sindhi girls melt?

Not in the eye. Some of them are too fashionable to be taken seriously.

I dream of nuns these days?

A reaction of my article "Footprints of Christ". That article had a stimulating effect on all bachelors.

When are fathers made?

When pleasure leaves behind its seed.

A day with Marilyn Monroe?

It has to be a night. She has too many facial defects for an artistic temperament.

If our Maulana Azad migrates to Pakistan?

We shall lose our best advertisement of secularity. In the Maulana we have the original Arab edition.

What is death to a blind man?

Journey to a world where he can see.

Naseem is in my dream?

Leave her there. She is in another man's bed.

What are Sindhi girls made of?

Nylon, cosmetics and Asoo sweets—a gastric combination.

Have you ever seen God?

That is a personal question with an invisible answer. You are still years away from the problem. Don't bother about God so soon.

What is in store for Sheikh Abdullah?

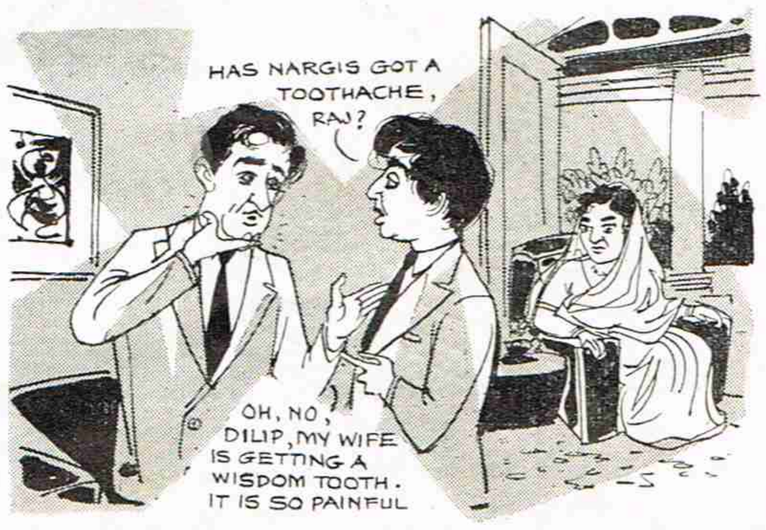
The kingdom of Azaad Kashmir!

Who prevents you from embracing Islam?

Our government. If I start praying five times every day who will pay my taxes?

If Nargis gets a toothache?

Raj Kapoor gets a swollen jaw. That is modern love.



Shashi Patel is fond of.....?

Skirts! But being a man who believes in simple living, he hates knickers.

Do you also lend money?

I am at the other end of money—the borrowing end.

Is it advisable to marry a nurse?

A good-looking one is usually a doctor's mucilage mortar. A bad-looking one is a disease in bed.

Dr. Katju has a hideous smile?

A deaf man misses the music of life and therefore cannot beautify his smile.

If Nargis is kidnapped?

The Income Tax Department will pay a king's ransom to get her back into circulation again. Nargis is still a good earner.

How much money has Madhubala made so far?

Her father admits 42 lakhs of rupees till last April.

What do you appreciate in David?

He made even a bald head acceptable in romance and gave new hope to those over fifty.

When Prithviraj embraces you?

I have to rush home and take a bath. I can't stand the smell of khadi.

What do you expect from Maharashtrians?

Some character during the elections. Temper becomes a character if it is pursued to its logical conclusion.

How far is Nimmi reliable?

I have respect for Nimmi. She called at my office and paid the arrears of her advertisement dues. Many male producers, who call themselves manly, do not show that character.

For whom are the 'ayahs' waiting?

For the children of Zoroaster! Nobody roasts them better for the bed.

Will the Muslims vote for the Congress?

Whom else will they vote for? Congress alone can give them another Pakistan.

Dhebar has a blank face?

Puppets always have a blank face. For expression you must see who is at the other end of the strings.

Not all women can do housework. Some women are built for artistic purposes only. Look at Nutan making a mess of herself in "Sone-ki-Chidiya".

BHAYIO ANE BEHANO!
HIS STRING-PULLER, NEHRU, DOESN'T CARE FOR FASTING MULES
MORARJI IS DYING AND DHEBARBHAI HAS NO EXPRESSION?

MRS. MADHURI SHAH (Almora)

How many dogs Pandit Nehru has?

One genuine quadruped and a crowd of tail-wagging bipeds.

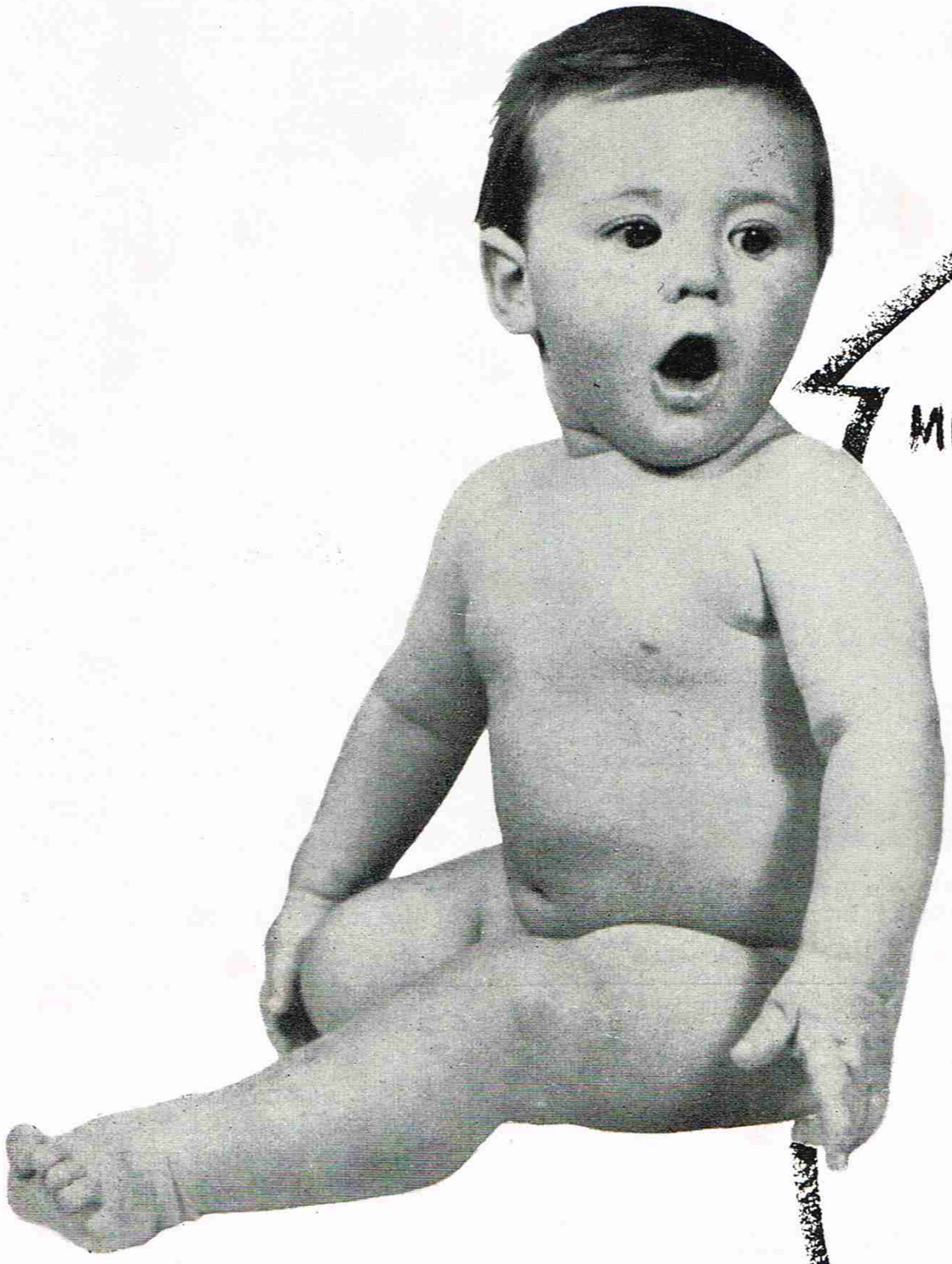
JAWAHARLAL ZUTSHI (Annamalainagar)

Madhubala does not like Dilip?

These days she likes her doctor.

MISS MANIK BHANDARE (Bombay)

Your face never conveys bankruptcy?



CAREFUL!
MIND YOU DON'T SPILL ANY!

I've heard it's no use crying over spilled milk ! But if there's any chance of my missing a drop of my delicious Glaxo, then I feel I'm justified in letting out a shout. Apart from this, you'll never hear a murmur from me. Just as long as I go on getting my Glaxo regularly, I'm a model of perfection, like every Glaxo Baby.

SUNSHINE
Glaxo
BUILDS BONNIE BABIES
PURE, STANDARDISED, UNTOUCHED BY HAND
ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR INFANT FEEDING. SAFE
AND SUITABLE FOR GROWING CHILDREN.
INVALIDS AND GENERAL ADULT USES.
The contents of this tin are specially prepared to maintain their freshness under all climatic conditions.
A GLAXO BABY
It is important that this tin should be stored IN A COOL DRY PLACE and the lid tightly replaced immediately after use.
RICH IN VITAMINS

I RECOMMEND

Glaxo

THE PERFECT MILK-FOOD FOR BABIES

For a free copy of The Glaxo Baby Book send 8 annas in stamps (to cover postage) to 'Glaxo', Worli, Bombay 18.

GLAXO LABORATORIES (INDIA) PRIVATE LTD., Bombay • Calcutta • Madras • New Delhi

R. 68

Yes, I have the face of a prince and the luck of a beggar. Most of our film folks are princes like me.

Sindhi girls dating Saraswat boys. Unbelievable?

They want free husbands without paying the dowry.

Is it a fact that Sandhya is only 18?

A neighbour's girl is always 18.

I kiss the feet of my fiance. Anything wrong?

Yes, his face is wrong.

Pakistanis will treat Babs just like a goat?

An Idd goat, if you please!

B. R. SEHGAL (Amia)

Can you tell me why I am interested in you?

A railway guard always peeps into the compartments to see who is travelling. Occupational habits die hard.

SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)

Is Yashodhara Kathju married?

No! The crime is timed for Christmas.

K. M. RAO (Calcutta)

What will Indira do after Nehru?

She will discover Feroze Gandhi. Nehrus are always good at discoveries.

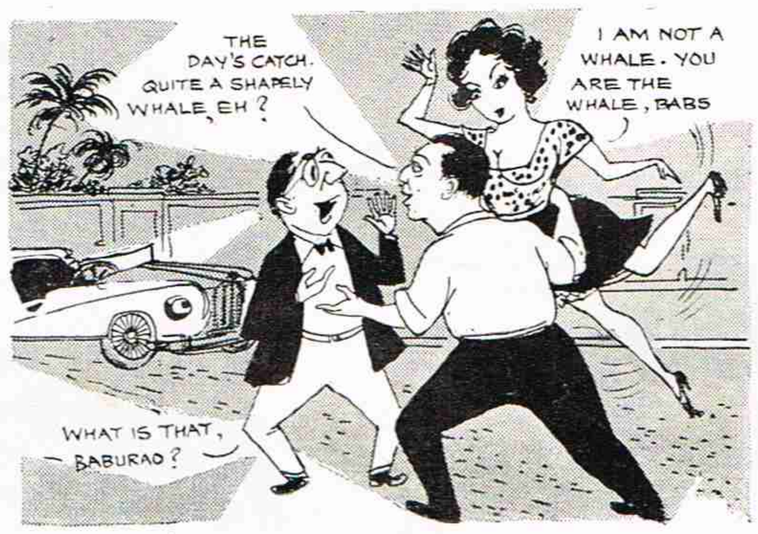
I have seen an American in dhoti?

This is evidently an Arab situation with two 'begums' and three 'bandis'. Nishi and Chitra seem to be mighty interested in the performance of the camels in "Neelofer", a passionate tale of romance.

To sell Christ they wear all costumes.

Was Baburao Patel a good angler in his youth?

Angler? I had no patience for small fish. I was a harpooner.



Is Azad also a deep thinker?

Yes, yes, he is so much weighed down with thought that his head is almost between his legs now.

No one is proud of me, Babs?

Did you ask your mirror?

When a Kapoor vomits?

He paints the reputation of another with his bile.

Can you smile like Nehru?

Nehru has a god's smile, a blessing denied to little men.

"All women are alike from the waist down", says a psycho-pathologist.

He is a damn fool. That is precisely where a man can catch a woman thinking and separate her from others.

Where is Veera now?

With her second conscience in Pakistan.

Are there patriots in Pakistan?

No. Patriots grow in a soil watered with the blood of martyrs and warriors through centuries. Pakistan is a poison plant nursed with the blood and hatred of a friendly neighbour.

When two spinsters meet?

They can discuss only chronic eczema.

Do you think Punjabis are good engineers?

They must be. They saved ten crores of rupees in the Bhakra Nangal Project for themselves.

K. VISHWANATHAN (Calcutta)

How do you feel when you see tears in Nargis' eyes?

I feel that she is wasting them in advance because she will need plenty of them later.

You go on increasing the price of "Burning Words". Why?

My wife goes on increasing the pages. She began with a book of 300 pages and then, like a woman, went on revising her

WHY A TONIC ?

* To keep one's wealth of health
* To pull a convalescent through
* To make one fit as a fiddle

Human body is but a machine
Air, Fire and Grease are to machine

what

VATA, PITTA AND KAPHA
are to human body

Their order is health.....LIFE
Their disorder is disease.....DEATH

USE

NAVRATNA KALPA

Invented by

Kaviraj
Pt. Durga Datt Sharma
Vaidya-Vachaspati

A compound of nine gems, such as Diamonds, Rubies, Pearls etc.

AN IDEAL GENERAL TONIC

* To set Vata, Pitta, and Kapha in order.
* To gain lost health.
* To get back youth - and all it means.

Free literature on request

From :—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY
Jullunder City (India)

Girls have become very humble these days. They keep bending all the time and taking happy poses. This one is Sabita Chatterjee and you can see her doing this in "Parivar", a crowded domestic tale of Bimal Roy Productions.

decision till she has now reached over 600 pages. Her father-in-law not having a paper mill, I had to borrow money to buy all the paper needed for the book.

Are there no gambling saloons in your film industry?

Almost every film home is a gambling den.

Can words be buried?

Gandhiji's sermons are buried by his heirs.

Can Nargis be pickled?

You need raw mangoes for pickles.

Can I confidently own Lambretta motor-cycle?

It is not a happy conveyance.

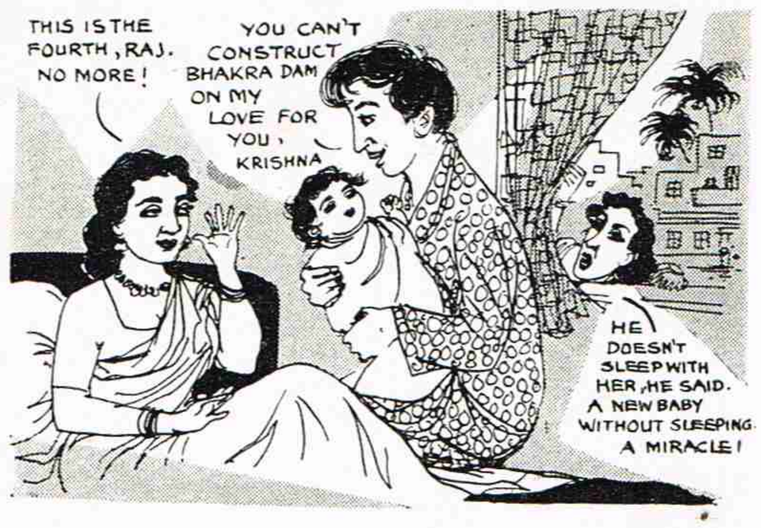
Does Nargis believe in mythology?

Yes, her friendship with Raj is mythological.

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

If Krishna Kapoor hits Nargis?

Krishna has no time. Her hands are full with a new baby.


THIS IS THE FOURTH, RAJ. NO MORE!
YOU CAN'T CONSTRUCT BHAKRA DAM ON MY LOVE FOR YOU, KRISHNA
HE DOESN'T SLEEP WITH HER, HE SAID. A NEW BABY WITHOUT SLEEPING. A MIRACLE!

S. KUMAR JAIN (Poona)

What is luck?

That is a good wind which reveals the fruit that remained covered with leaves on the tree that you planted and watered for years. Luck is often a fruit of which you have forgotten the seed.

S. SUNTHARALINGAM (Colombo)

Does love ever turn bitter?

Love is not milk to curdle. It is wine that evaporates.

VENILAL M. KHATRI (Navsari)

Do Americans believe in astrology?

They believe in witchcraft too. Where human reason stops, superstition begins.

Amrit Kaur tours too much. Why?

To avoid her own tuberculosis seals sealing her up in India.

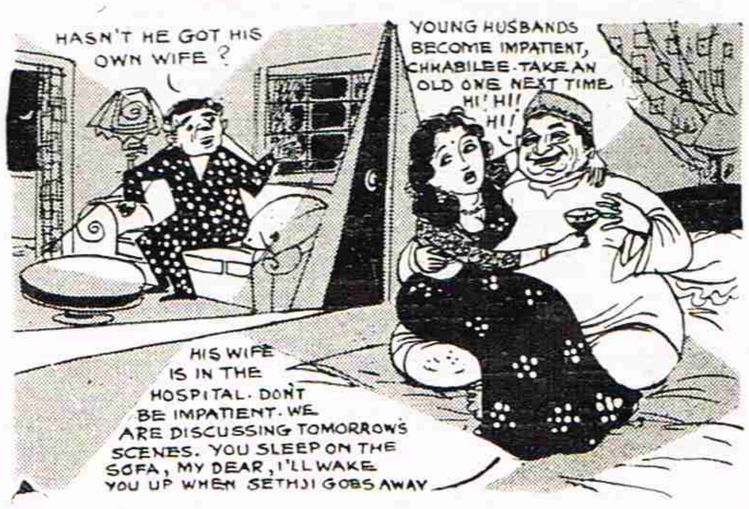
JAGDISH JAIN (Hapur)

Are our Indian cars improving?

We are not manufacturing any cars. We are only assembling different car parts. And even in doing that we give a bad name to the original manufacturers.

Does an actress ever invite her producer to her residence?

Producers don't wait for invitations. They keep the star-husbands waiting out.


HASN'T HE GOT HIS OWN WIFE ?
YOUNG HUSBANDS BECOME IMPATIENT, CHHABILEE-TAKE AN OLD ONE NEXT TIME. HI! HI! HI!
HIS WIFE IS IN THE HOSPITAL. DON'T BE IMPATIENT. WE ARE DISCUSSING TOMORROW'S SCENES. YOU SLEEP ON THE SOFA, MY DEAR, I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN SETHJI GOES AWAY

Who is K. M. Modi?

Ex theatre-king of India! For his robe of purple and gold he borrowed colours from the rainbow. One day the rainbow disappeared and the fairy tale revealed its moral.

How rich is Meena Kumari?

She makes four lakhs a year and she has been at it last five years.

What is wrong with an average Punjabi?

He has more confidence than talent, more noise than music, more strength than wisdom, more bluff than intelligence, more passion than reason and more crudeness than culture. He is still an untamed element of human society—often a heavy rock of quartz with a few grammes of gold hidden inside. The Punjabi is still a farmer who has been put into a pair of trousers in an unnecessary hurry.

Do you believe Morarji Desai's words?

Words? His vows have no character now.

What is the latest hobby of Marilyn Monroe?

She wants intelligence to sleep in bed with her. After base-ball women like billiards which needs some intelligence and precision.

What is Baburao without Sushie?

Book without an index.

Will Communism dazzle Asia one day?

Asia is dazzled already. It has only to go blind now.

WHEN NERVES ARE LOST ALL IS LOST

* SUDDEN SHOCK
* MISFORTUNE
* WORRY
* OVERWORK
* CHRONIC INDIGESTION

are common causes of **NERVOUS DEBILITY**

* FORGETFULNESS
* FEAR COMPLEX
* DELUSIONS
* THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE
* HALLUCINATIONS

are its terrible consequences

To get rid of

NERVOUS DEBILITY

USE

NAVRATNA KALPA

A compound of nine gems:-
Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl, Emerald, Topaz, Agate, Cat's-eye and Coral

Invented by:

Pt. Durga Datt Vaidya, Kaviraj Vaidya-Vachaspati

Free literature on request from:—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY

Jullunder City (India)

What are your suggestions for the improvement of prisons in India?

Scrap the laws that make new criminals and the prisons will improve automatically.

Doesn't Khrushchev believe in God?

He does. All wolves do. When they lose belief in God, other wolves tear them to pieces.

Why do old type people oppose co-education?

They believe in the old fire-and-butter maxim. They don't know that electric energy is also used to freeze the butter these days.

Are there U.S. oil fields in Saudi Arabia?

Then did you think the money which the tall Arab threw about in India last year came from the sand dunes?

LOOK AT HIM

* His nose itches, or he has cold in the throat
* He sits up in bed or he runs to the window
* He feels choked and pants for breath
* His inspiration is short and quick
* His expiration is hard and long
* He sweats as he coughs
* His lips are pale
* His face tells a tale

THAT IS ASTHMA

A picture of Pity and Anxiety—Too deep for tears

CHANGE IT INTO ONE OF HOPE AND JOY

USE

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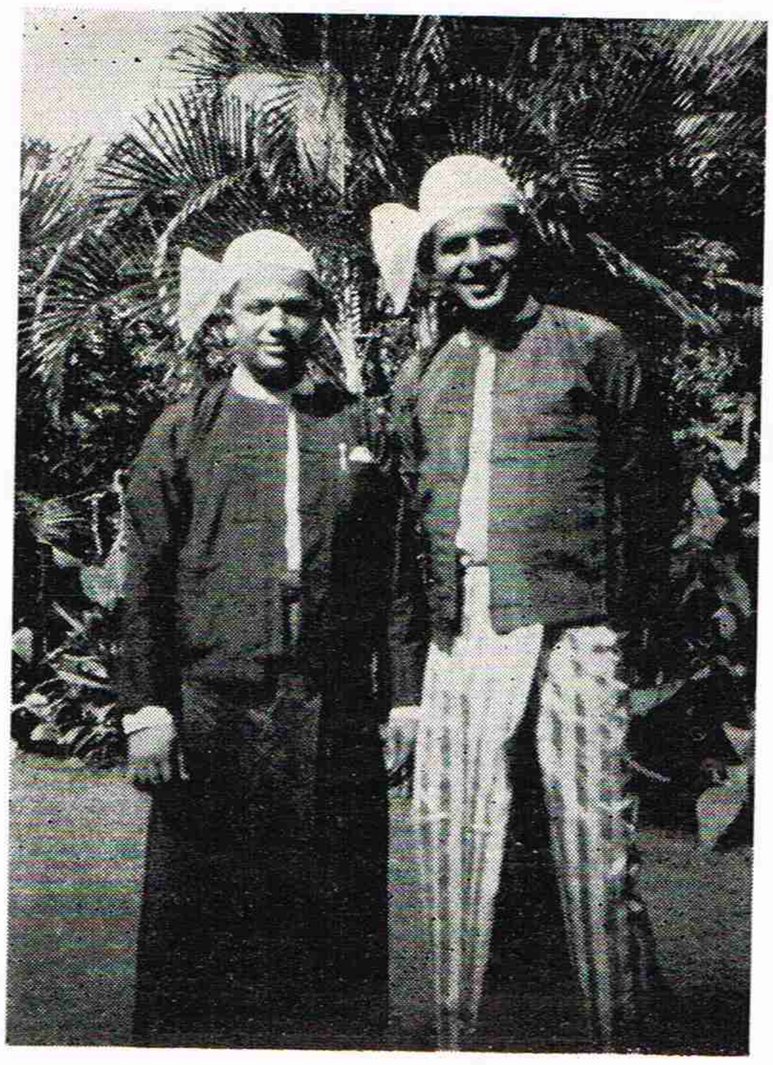


They both look Burmese. Rehmat Ali Kader of Rangoon puts Dilip Kumar into a Burmese dress perhaps in the hope of marrying one of the Khan sisters.

What did you do for Morarji Desai, your friend, when he observed fast at Ahmedabad for a week?

I prayed for him and asked him to break the fast and be more practical. Saintly stunts don't suit Morarji. He is from Bulsar.

How big is your shadow?

I have been so busy working for my living that I have had no time to stand in the sun and measure my shadow.

Is Prithviraj Kapoor polite?

Yes, his politeness hides the man completely.

Is Keskar better than Diwakar?

Diwakar was never rude and was more effective than Keskar.

Have you any Sikh friends?

Oh, plenty of them! I have both the models—streamlined and hairlined.

Does Nargis need any make-up?

Plenty of it! Max Factor supplies all the 'beauty' to our film stars.

Will cottage industries pay in India?

Illicit distillation has made many new millionaires in Bombay and Madras.

Are yours princely habits?

Gipsies have the royal blood of vagabonds.

Does Nimmi wink?

She smiles with her eyes. Only those wink whose eyes can't smile.

Is Shantaram a millionaire?

A man, whose one wife, by his own confession, has suppressed jewellery worth two lakhs of rupees, must be a multi-millionaire.

Are Begum Para and Nayantara related to each other?

Their diet is the same. They have been living on air for years now.

Have you also purchased a site in Chandigarh?

In that Fatehpur Sikri of Congressmen? I don't believe in contributing to the archaeology of the future.

Is education cheap in America?

It is not cheap but it is made available to everyone by various methods.

How far is V. Shantaram reliable?

Ask Jayashree. After being married to him for fourteen years, she is anxious to leave him.

M. R. HARIHARAN (Bombay)

T. T. Krishnamachari is a capitalist?

Then he knows how to use money. That is why Nehru has made him our Finance Minister.

M. P. ABHYANKAR (Nagpur)

What exercise do you suggest for middle-aged men?

After 40, eat half the food, ten minutes of deep breathing, a mile of brisk walk and lazing in bed for an hour with "filmindia".

How do you make people believe you?

I make no conscious attempt to convince or convert people. I write what I feel honestly and leave the rest to the people themselves.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

If a Sindhi comes across a snake?

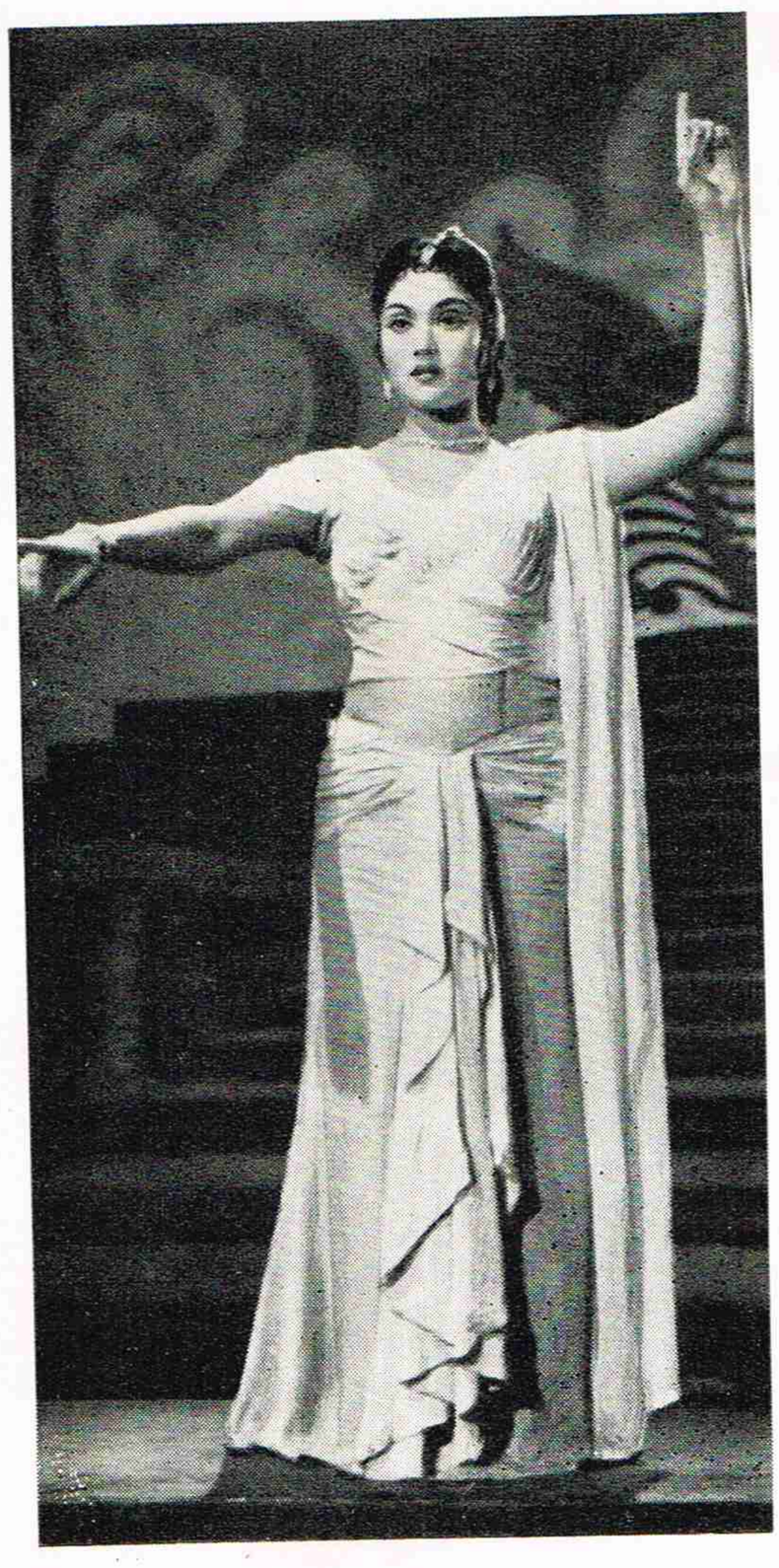
The snake will have to beat a hasty retreat before the Sindhi skins it and makes a lady's handbag out of the skin.

WHAT FINE SKIN ! I'LL MAKE A BAG FOR MRS. BABURAO PATEL AND CHARGE RS. 100
NOT WITH MY SKIN, PARMANAND. I AM GOING TO BE A REFUGEE IN MY HOLE

K. LAKSHMINARAYAN (Poona)

Shri Savarkar wants all young men of India to join the Army?

But the Army doesn't want our young men. You only see posters asking our young men to join but they can't get in. The Army doors never open.



This is a living version of the Statue of Liberty. Embrace it and you lose all your liberty. Vyjayantimala really warns the sailors to keep away from the shore in "New Delhi."

CHUNILALL SARHADI (Faridabad)

Dewy-eyed Nimmi says that as a child she had always wished to be a bride and have her hands painted with 'mehndi'. Now she is fast leaving behind a marriageable age, what stops her from marrying?

Now she cannot wash off the 'mehndi' which her film marriages have blessed her with.

J. D. THAKUR (Bombay)

How many Mohammedans are there in Pakistan?

Even mosquitoes in Pakistan are Muslim.

YOGENDRA NARAIN (Allahabad)

What is Shantaram doing these days?

At 57 he is still feeding his ego. Poor chap!

K. M. RAO (Calcutta)

Why have the Congress chosen the bullocks as their symbol?

Congressmen believe in confessions.

V. J. RAMAN (Bombay)

What we need today in India is benevolent dictatorship?

Aren't we going through the throes of one already? Do you by any chance call Nehru a democrat?

When will Amrit Kaur get temperature?

When our stars improve.

What can we steal from the dead?

We can steal their experience and use it to pilot our ship.

Have you ever met a Punjabi in distress?

A Punjabi is always in distress. It is either his food or his pleasure that is in peril.

Is Nigar Sultana married?

No. She is still too young for marriage. Film stars marry only when they don't get work. And Nigar has still to try Pakistan.

Does Sood know how to nurse his children in the absence of Kamini?

Sood is an expert baby-sitter. He has been more with his babies than with his wife.

Premnath should retire?

He has just gone to Japan to see if he can get a role in Japanese pictures. He feels that he has a nose for these pictures.

Is Shakila romantic?

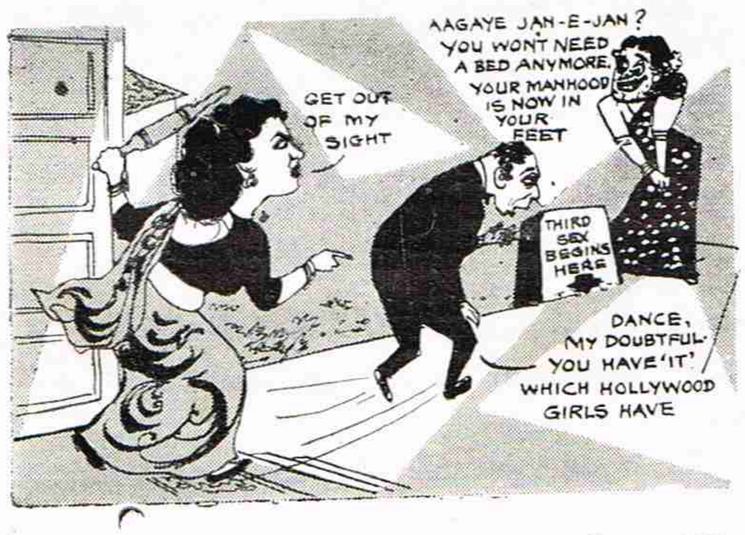
Do you associate romance with that stub with a silly nose?

What is the difference between one who makes the image of a god and the other who worships it?

The one who worships it has greater imagination. The sculptor gives God the shape of man. The devotee sees God in that shape.

How are eunuchs helpful to society?

They mark the milestone where all hen-pecked husbands finally arrive.


AAGAYE JAN-E-JAN ? YOU WONT NEED A BED ANYMORE. YOUR MANHOOD IS NOW IN YOUR FEET
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT
THIRD SEX BEGINS HERE
DANCE, MY DOUBTFUL- YOU HAVE 'IT' WHICH HOLLYWOOD GIRLS HAVE

Are the Gujaratis justified in demanding Gujarat?

Why not? If Andhras can have Andhra and Bengalis their own Bengal, what sin have the Gujaratis committed to be denied a province of their own?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali's qualifications, please?

Dr. Shrimali is a competent educationist. He would have made a better Minister of Education than the bearded Arab, but Shrimali is a Hindu and that is a disqualification in Nehru's India.

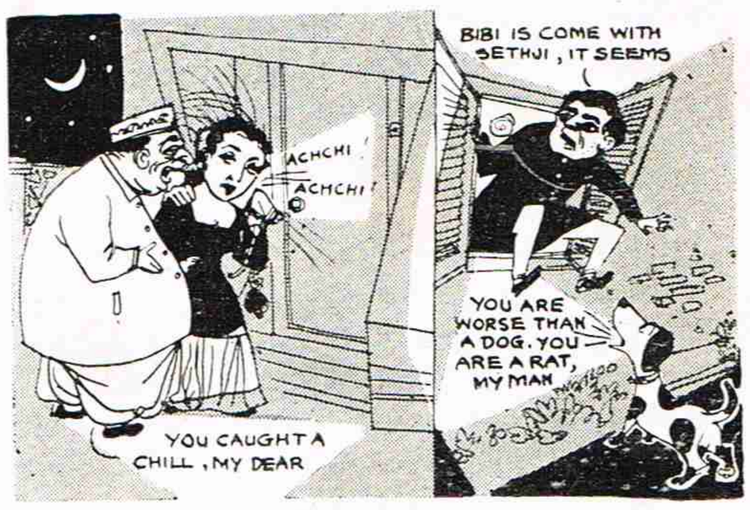
Who is this Shrimati Indumati Chimanlal?

In 1947 she was quite an attractive woman at 100 yards.

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

Should an actress sneeze in love?

How else can she warn her husband to get out of the way?



H. M. KASKAR (Cape Town)

Don't you think that Islam is an ideal religion?

No. A religion that teaches intolerance is far from the ideal.

Do the Pakistanis have a sense of humour?

REGAIN PERFECT HEALTH THE NAVRATNA WAY

Humanity is indebted to The Science of Ayurveda which discovered the principle of the power-to-cure inherent in nine precious Gems and the principle of Potentization through continuous trituration.

These two Principles are combined into one.

By

Pt. Durga Datt Vaidya, Kaviraj Vaidya-Vachaspati

in

NAVRATNA KALPA

A compound of nine gems :-

Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl, Emerald, Topaz, Agate, Cat's-eye and Coral.

An absolutely non-poisonous and non-injurious remedy for all

to get rid of :—

Digestive Disorders	Blood Poisoning
Nervous Debility	Fistula
Leucoderma	Sinus
Elephantiasis	Piles & Asthma

Free literature on request from :—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY

Jullunder City (India)

They do. They are starving and yet allowing their politicians to have a lot of fun.

Who has got more knowledge: D. F. Karaka or Baburao Patel?

D. F. Karaka. He is an Oxford graduate.

Do you like Chand Usmani?

She is sad, sweet and seductive.

Is Dr. Keskar a selfish man?

All people who impose their moods and eccentricities on others are selfish.

Is Venus Bannerjee still in the limelight?

That woman wants candle light to harness friendly shadows for her purpose. Limelight brings freckles and wrinkles to the surface.

Can you stand flattery?

I receive hundreds of letters every month from different parts of the world describing me as the greatest genius ever born. I stand the abuse well and still work sixteen hours every day because grocers have no use for genius. They respect only genuine currency notes.

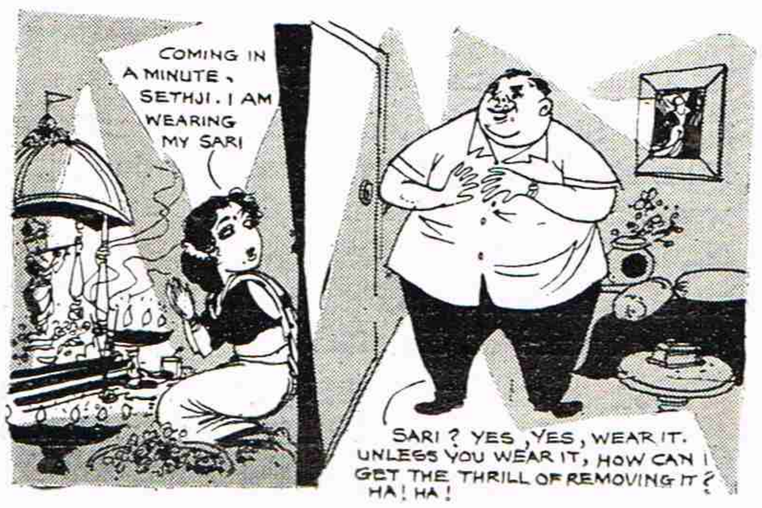
Sometimes your criticism of Muslims hurts a lot you know?

I know, son. It hurts me and some of my very dear Muslim friends too. Their pale and confused expression often brings tears to my eyes. But my criticism is based on acts and facts of Muslim life and is needed in the secular interest of our nation. Whatever we do to please and appease them, the Muslims of India still continue to live and breathe for Pakistan. Look at the toll of Indian lives they took over a silly book written by some Americans. Why should Hindu blood be shed over the crime of Americans? If Muslims cannot love others, they must at least add more sense to their hatreds.

K. A. PATNA (Madras)

What does a prostitute conceal?

Her virtue. There is no demand for it and she has to keep it out of sight.


COMING IN A MINUTE, SETHJI. I AM WEARING MY SARI
SARI ? YES, YES, WEAR IT. UNLESS YOU WEAR IT, HOW CAN I GET THE THRILL OF REMOVING IT ? HA! HA!

Have you read the biography of our Chief Minister Kamraj Nadar?

Has he got a biography? Seeing his shirtless photos, I thought he had only a physical geography.

J. R. PATIL (Bombay)

Is A. R. Kardar rich?

Only a very rich man can afford to sit idle for two years.

Why do the Russians preserve their big dead?

The Russians have no imagination. To abuse they need the corpse.

A. RAGHAVAN (Donakonda)

Nine years of independence! Our achievements please?

Read "Burning Words" by Baburao Patel.

C. RANGARAJAN (Karaikudi)

Why does Kalpana Kartik look always so tragic?

She has a face that never smiles.

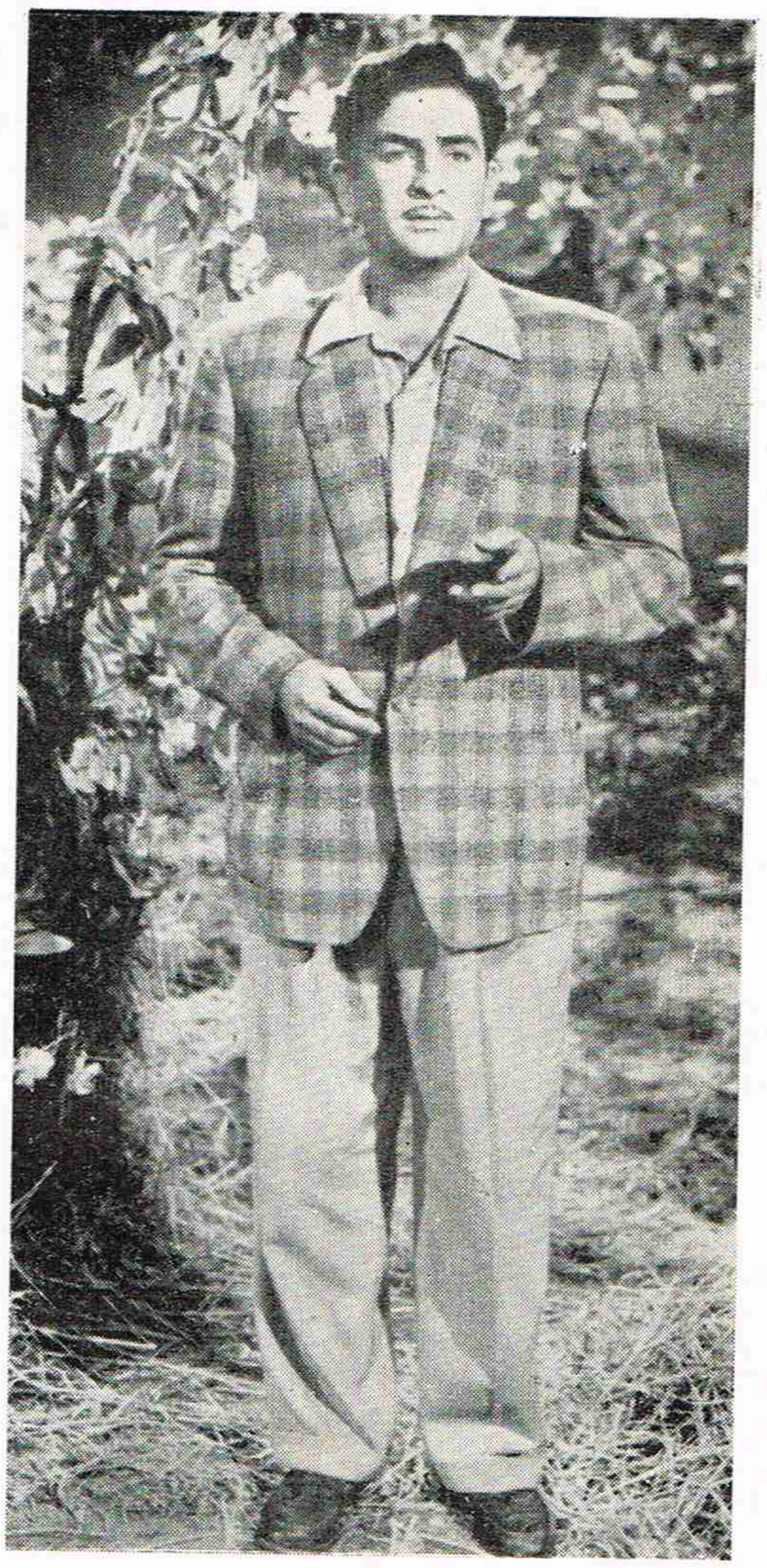
BALKRISHAN BHAWANKHEL (Bikaner)

Your comment on Chintu Deshmukh's new job?

Lighting a candle with a big powerhouse.

M. P. KARIMPLE (Rangoon)

What a pity! A.I.R. has gone to dogs. Hardly anybody cares for this station here. Don't you think that it is high time that Panditji sent the present minister responsible for the miserable handling of his job to some cool country as our ambassador at least to preach about our glorious ancient culture?



Raj Kapoor is not only a good director and producer but also an excellent actor. His art lies in lifting those girls who play opposite him to greater emotions. Association with him has made Nargis a much better artiste than ever before. Watch them both cooing in "Chori Chori", a social tale produced by AVM.

Keskar will make our invisible culture unpopular. Then we'll have nothing to swear by.

MISS S. NALINI (Kargal)

Who will be the first Chief Minister of Greater Bombay State?

Any crook will do. Names don't matter under a Gandhi cap.

Is "Samson" Premnath living on his wife Bina Rai's earnings?

No. He produced "Prisoner of Golconda" for his own expenses. Premnath is too manly to touch his wife's money.

K. K. HUSSAIN (Kurnool)

Why is Mukesh in oblivion?

He has not yet recovered from the paralytic attack of production.

VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

Will you be surprised if Raj Kapoor accepts Islam?

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THIS BOOK IS BEING PRINTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE READERS OF FILMINDIA. IT CONTAINS ALL THE IMPORTANT EDITORIALS PROPERLY EDITED AND WITH COMMENT

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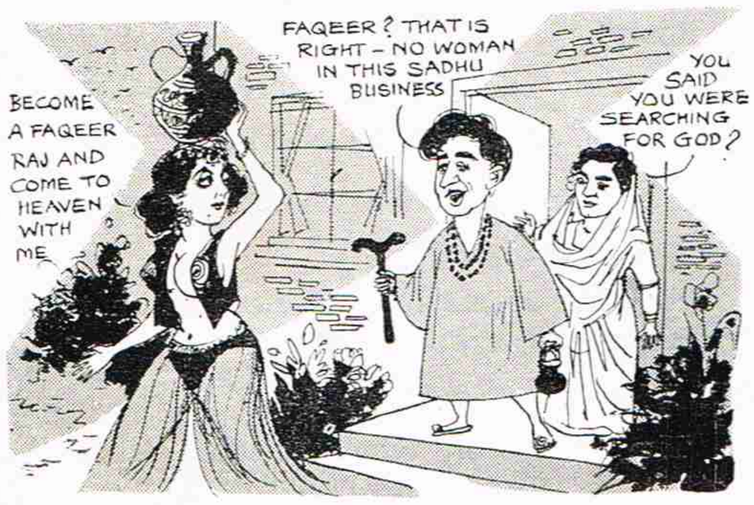
FORT—BOMBAY 1.

The curtain hides half of them but the other half teases more and gives a half headache. Nishi looks a generous type in "Neelofer", a love tale told in exciting terms.

Not for old washouts! Islam will have to produce a real houri for Raj to become religious.


BECOME A FAQEER RAJ AND COME TO HEAVEN WITH ME
FAQEER? THAT IS RIGHT - NO WOMAN IN THIS SADHU BUSINESS
YOU SAID YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR GOD?

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

"I am much more than a Prime Minister", says Panditji?

Who challenges that? Nehru is a tyrant of 360 million hearts.

Imagine Vinoba in Hollywood?

He would be a sensational success—as great a success as Marilyn Monroe. Vinoba is also a calendar personality like Marilyn with the only difference that his message is spiritual.

K. V. RAMANA PATRO (Midnapore)

Are nuns harmless?

Yes, till the monks cross their path.

How old is Suraiya?

Suraiya is a baby seeing that Mama is still young.

Nehru says that the present education is useless?

Must be, the way he has not been able to solve a single problem of ours.

P. S. GOEL (Meerut)

Are children gifts from heaven?

Heaven? They are gifts of a double bed.

MISS C. CHANDRAMANI (Bombay)

Why don't men discard their braces in hot weather?

Why don't you say that you want to see them with their pants down? You are growing fast, kid.

PREM C. SINHA (Ajmer)

Dhebar's cap thrown up in the air at Ahmedabad! Ever heard of a Congress President being treated in this manner?

You'll see the head under the cap broken one day.

How would you sum up Prithviraj Kapoor?

Add up Raj, Shammi and Shashi—his three sons—and the total you get is the father. The boys have got nothing which has not been latent in the father.

The Governor of Orissa has described the D.V.C. Project as a colossal waste of funds. Any comment?

Truth doesn't need any comment.

Which presentation do you prefer?

Studios put top quality on their films—
Do you enjoy this quality at your favourite theatre?

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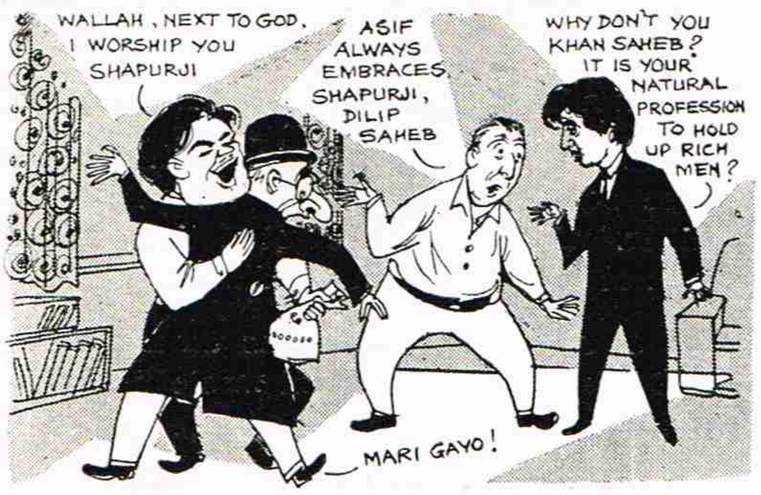
SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

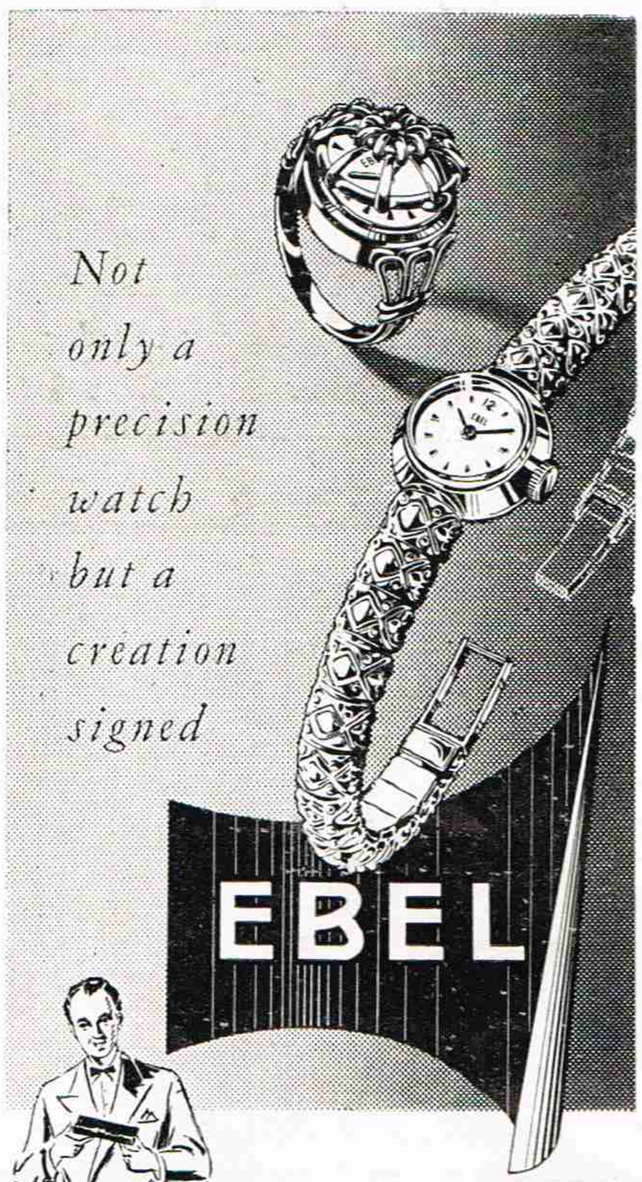
If Dahyabhai embraces Baburao Patel?

What is the use of one bankrupt embracing another?


WALLAH, NEXT TO GOD, I WORSHIP YOU SHAPURJI
ASIF ALWAYS EMBRACES SHAPURJI, DILIP SAHEB
WHY DON'T YOU KHAN SAHEB? IT IS YOUR NATURAL PROFESSION TO HOLD UP RICH MEN?
MARI GAYO!

P. PANDARINATH (Hyderabad)

What beautifies speech?



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RAJESH

A strong arm helps the woman to concentrate on the man easily. Women understand strength better than supplication. Chitra seems to like Shyam Kumar's firm grip in "Neelofer", a thrilling romance.

Not words but a good thought.

M. MANAVALAN (Guntakal)

Krishna Menon was recently referred to as "our Krishna" by Vijaylakshmi Pandit at London?

He is a ward of the Nehrus and there is nothing wrong in the sleeveless old girl taking a kindly interest in him. All Nehrus have a patronizing air.

PRABHU DAYAL (Ajmer)

I hear that Shri Deshmukh doesn't wear khadi now?

That is not right. Deshmukh wedded khadi when he married Durgabai.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi said on 4th September in Indore that several hospitals in Himachal Pradesh remained closed as no doctors were ready to work!

Doesn't that prove that our damn doctors are only mercenaries who want profits out of pain?

KESHAV SHIRSEKAR (Bombay)

Morarji's recent fast was smelling of hypocrisy!

All Bulsar 'cookings' have that smell. The water of that place has a bad odour.

Pandit Nehru says that Morarji is the wealth of India.

That shows how poor our country is.

P. D. JAIN (Ajmer)

If Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee had been alive?

Indian politics would have had some conscience and nobility.

Say something about Yashodhara Kathju?

She smokes cigars these days. That is an original sin for women in the film industry.

Is Meena Shorey a silencer?

She looks like a shock-absorber.

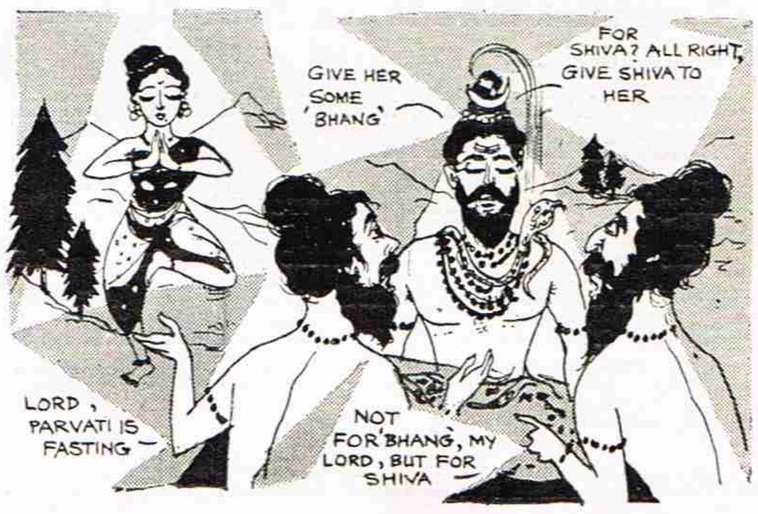
MRS. NALINI DARWHEKAR (Wani)

What is Rajghat?

Rajghat seems to have become an international flowerpot.

If Himalayas begin to talk?

The best story they can tell is of the stunts of Lord Shiva with and without "bhang".



A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

If a Pakistani prostitute marries a Hindustani 'Nawab'?

No one is hurt. Everything that a Muslim takes to bed is 'halal'.

Is the recent husband of Marilyn Monroe very proud of this marriage?

You can't scream much over a second-hand car.

Gandhi cap is so cheap and it is our national pride?

We are a meek people, out to inherit the earth. Even those who wear the cap are cheap. In fact we have not adopted any expensive virtues like honesty and character.

Is Nutan worth imagination?

The distance between you two is too big. Don't let your imagination get palpitation.

Is K. Srinivasan an uncrowned king of journalism?

He has both the crown and the kingdom, but no journalism. Journalism is the galley slave of his kingdom.

A hungry beggar is lying dead before my door?

That is a warning at your door. Work hard and don't let hunger overtake you.

Stalin Prize changed into Lenin Prize?

So will Nehru medals change into Vallabhbhai medals.

Kamini Kaushal looks so motherly now?

Do you expect a mother of three to look fatherly?

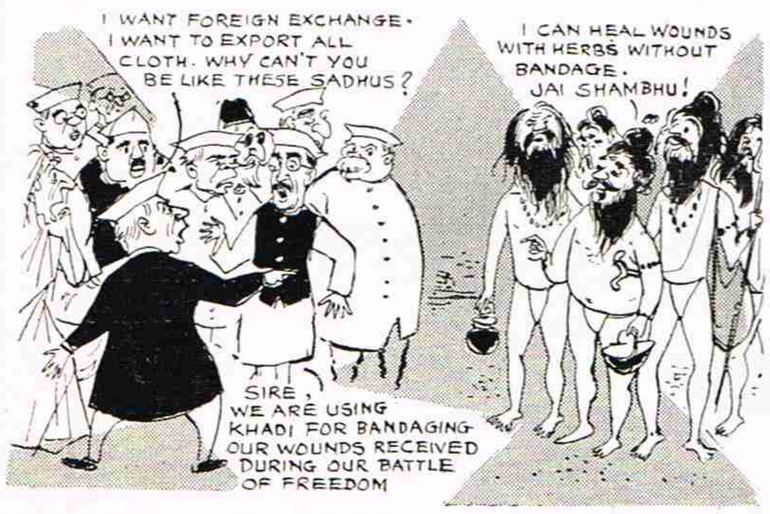
I saw Dalmia eating grass in my dream?

Dalmia might be soon eating "biryani" in Pakistan.

J. M. KAPUR (New Delhi)

Why should Nehru enlist the support of sadhus for the second Five-Year plan when his own team includes so many selfless and capable sadhus?

He wants sky-clad sadhus to be able to export all the cloth we produce.


I WANT FOREIGN EXCHANGE. I WANT TO EXPORT ALL CLOTH. WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE THESE SADHUS?
I CAN HEAL WOUNDS WITH HERBS WITHOUT BANDAGE. JAI SHAMBHU!
SIRE, WE ARE USING KHADI FOR BANDAGING OUR WOUNDS RECEIVED DURING OUR BATTLE OF FREEDOM

J. N. KANUNGO (Cuttack)

What happened to K. Asif's "Moghul-e-Azam"?

The "Moghul" is still on the frying pan.

B. M. MALHOTRA (New Delhi)

Only fifteen years more on this planet, Babs?

That is more than enough. See what the Congressmen have done to India in nine years.

RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Poona)

Is Kamini Kaushal a vision?

She is a provision.

How does V. Shantaram cool himself?

He digs new tube-wells when he finds old holes dry. A Kolhapuri is always a natural water-diviner.

Girls here say you have a bored look?

That is right! Sindhi girls look so boringly stupid.

What is H. S. Suhrawardy yelling for?

A state funeral. He'll get it soon.

What is Mala Sinha?

That is a bundle of kissable mischief with a thick-headed father in the way.

What is so exciting about Diana Dors?

Her blonde wig. It raises expectations.

P. S. A. PADMANABHA (Bangalore)

Mr. Deshmukh will receive a pay of Re. 1/- as President of University Grants Commission?

Mock heroism! People who work free

for the State put too much strain on their mirror.

G. RAMA RAO (Kothagudium)

You don't have the manly moustache?

I am a devoted follower of Nehru.

S. PRAKASH (Jullundur)

If we could get a seat for China in the U.N.?

The Americans don't yet agree to run the U.N. as a Janata Express.

Who is H. V. Kamath?

That is mischief with a beard.

YOU ARE LIKE KAMATH - YOU BREAK SOMETHING TO MAKE A NOISE
YOU WANT ME TO BE LIKE NEHRU - MAKE NOISE AND MAKE PEOPLE LOOK OTHER WAY WHILE YOU STEAL SOMETHING

V. G. KRISHNAN (Calcutta)

Who is the next Prime Minister of India?

After Nehru the man is not important. The chair can accommodate any white-capped monkey.

P. S. GODBOLE (Indore)

What is the significance of abundance of white corpuscles?

Lot of neutrality in the system.

Do people without geography ever make any history?

Till 1948, the Jews had no geography and yet they kept the world sizzling with greed and hatred through centuries.

PREM BHATNAGAR (Port Blair)

Where will the Suez Canal dispute end?

The Muslim blackmail will succeed unless the White men of the West stop being scared of fighting.

I was born on 27th November 1927.

Thank you for the information.

JAGDISH N. MEHROTRA (Calcutta)

Do you think fasting by leaders to be a right approach?

Yes, the leaders last long.

They don't even hesitate in kicking a beggar.

I think able-bodied beggars deserve to be kicked every time you see them.

P. V. R. SYAMALA RAO (Bhojudih)

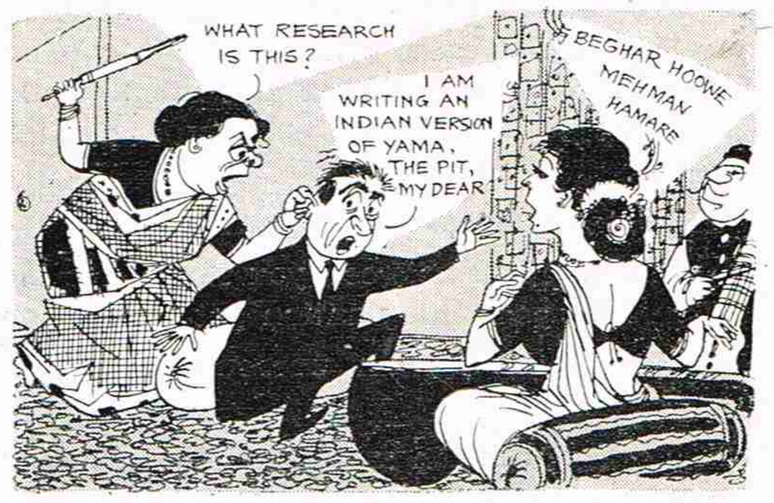
If A. R. Kardar walks into "Girnar" and pays off all your dues?

His luck will change in a day.

S. GAJENDRAN (Madras)

What is your practical advice to a man who has a domineering and nagging wife?

Work longer hours at the office or join a good library. Some of the world's greatest inventions have been made by henpecked husbands who kept themselves busy out of their houses.



C. S. SUNDARARAMAN (Chromepet)

Differentiate an Ayyar from an Ayyangar?

The first one has a wife plus a 'Veena', the second one usually has a wife plus a personal songstress. Both love music but the second one sleeps with it too.

You want Rs. 1000 for a forecast. Here a Brahmin is doing it for one rupee?

Lies are cheap. Truth is expensive.

I have been noting Cabinet changes, but not of Maulana Azad or Amrit Kaur?

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When young and bursting like this one, women can show their thumbs to men. But one day a man catches the thumb and turns it in and then the three fingers sue for peace. Vyjayantimala gives the screen a new rhythm in "New Delhi", a sensational box-office hit.

✓They are Gandhian gifts to the nation. After death, they should be embalmed and kept in our National Museum.

PRITHI PAL (Amritsar)

Give one reason for optimism?

In India, that is Bharat, God in heaven is the solitary reason left now. Congressmen have destroyed all other reasons.

K. PONNUSWAMY (Poona)

"He who aspires to be a hero must drink brandy", wrote Dr. Johnson.

That was before "Nira" was invented.

TIRTH K. AIDASANI (Bombay)

In our neighbourhood a woman reads "Gita" to her husband before going to bed every night.

She evidently wants action every night.

HARIRAM G. JUGAT (Bombay)

A friend of mine says, "Kick a girl and she will come to you". What do you say?

A girl who responds to a kick is not worth having.

MISS VINODINI CHAUDHARY (Bombay)

Madhubala has ceased to be beautiful?

But she doesn't see what we see.

✓**There's no crime in Russia. How godly!**

The State is in the crime business there. So virtue becomes an offence.

✓ **What is your opinion about A.I.R.'s lady announcers?**

Most of the A.I.R. announcers—male or female—are useless. They are either affected or indistinct. They don't know how to use the human voice.

P. VISHWANADHA RAO (New Delhi)

What if Nehru nationalizes the British companies and utilizes the loot for our second Five-Year Plan?

You can't build a nation on loot. See what is happening to Pakistan. Nasser's Suez loot will also not pay in the long run.

K. G. MATHUR (Ghaziabad)

If a passenger falls in love with an air hostess?

Our pilots don't give even a dog's chance to the passengers.

N. S. PABBI (New Delhi)

Is blissful married life a rare commodity in Hollywood?

THE TASTE OF YOUR TONGUE IS PACKED IN THIS BOTTLE

DILIP KUMAR

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CHILLI PICKLE (HOT)
Gives an extra edge to the tongue
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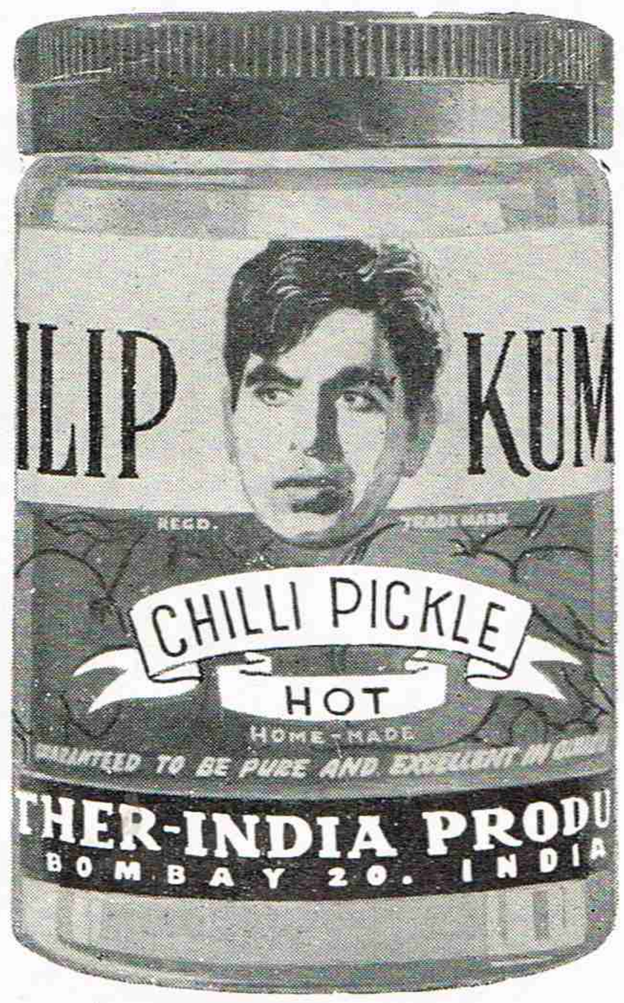

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Oh, no! It is bliss as long as it lasts. They never allow marriage to be a chronic disease.

THE JEWELLER IS HERE. CAN I BUY THIS? ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SO FAR IS THIS QUEUE OF HUNGRY CHILDREN
MY DARLING, WHEN A MAN AND A WOMAN GO TO BED THEY DONT PRODUCE DUCKS.
YOU CAN BUY THE NECKLACE NEXT YEAR IF YOU DONT PRODUCE ONE MORE IN THE MEAN-TIME

S. R. MHATRE (Bombay)

What did C. D. Deshmukh wash?

Some "langotis" of dynamic neutrality.

What is Khadi Bhandar famous for?

Ugly sales girls! They are all hand-woven models.

Has Acharya Vinoba Bhave an inner voice too?

He has a speaking ulcer.

Have you met Pee-Kay Atre?

I meet him sometimes during the day when he is Prahlad Keshav.

What happened to Junagadh lions?

They met Nehru and stopped multiplying. Lions might be too frightening for the Panchshila progeny of the future. The future lions of Saurashtra must look like Dhebar.

Why do South Indians love you so much?

English—common mother tongue!

Is Jayashree wise?

No. Only a foolish woman gets rid of a 57-year-old rich husband.

Poor Iris, she's engaged!

Poor kid, she has been engaged so often that a woman almost loses faith in that creature called man. Let us all pray for her success this time.

What is V. Shantaram's prayer?

That he should be given a public reception at Shivaji Park for displaying the Shantaram "touch" in the divorce court.

What is great about B. G. Kher?

He looks a senile fool without being one. It is difficult to hide intelligence but Balasaheb Kher does it most convincingly. And that hurts people less. Morarji looks wise and hurts people unnecessarily.

Is D. F. Karaka trying to be popular?

That is an old exercise of Dossu.

VINODRAI H. BHATT (Kanpur)

Re. 1|- the minimum price of a woman in Kanpur?

That is eight annas a meal. What is cheap there: food or hunger?

V. T. MAHADEVAN (Mannargudi)

Do you read "The Hindu"?

Yes and it is largely responsible for my ulcer. Its consistent insipidity causes increasing acidity in me.

MRS. KAMALA V. NATH (Poona)

How much can Madhubala count?

Dilip Kumar thinks that she can count only up to three thousand rupees in a month.

THIS IS ONLY THREE HUNDRED, DILIP, NOT THREE THOUSAND
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? ONLY AN EXTRA ZERO?
MADHU IS ALSO A ZERO BUT THERE IS DIFERENCE. WALLAH!

"A zip in every sip!"
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55 Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Fort, BOMBAY, INDIA

K. B. LALL (Indore)

Has Shammi Kapoor become a producer?

Not yet. A dozen more pictures with him as the hero have still to fail.

Such a mighty scholar like Dr. Ambedkar has disowned God in such a cultured and religious country like India. Doesn't it surprise you?

No. Our Congressmen can drive anyone mad.

What will be Maulana's will?

He will bequeath the Education Ministry to Humayun Kabir.

MANSUKH G. BHAGAT (Bombay)

What is the future of Tendulkar?

He will be one of the "widows" of Nehru—an object of curious smiles.

Why should Shantaram wash his dirty linen in the public?

In Kolhapur people eat in the house but rush to the street for relief. Shantaram is a true Kolhapuri.

Who owns Bombay now?

It once again belongs to people like you and me.

Why are Anglo-Indian girls always in distress?

They are week-end worshippers—burning small candles.

Like all Christians do you also believe that we are all sinners?

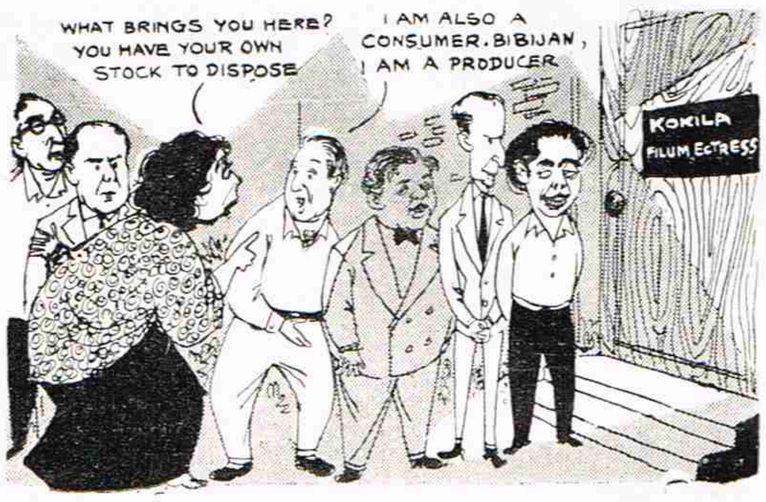
I don't. Panchshila is not my sin.

Nutan is my dream girl?

You have still to pass your L.L.B. That is a personal gift which you have promised me. Dream girls change many vows.

In what way does an ambitious mother help the progress of her daughter who is a film star?

She arranges the queue.



MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

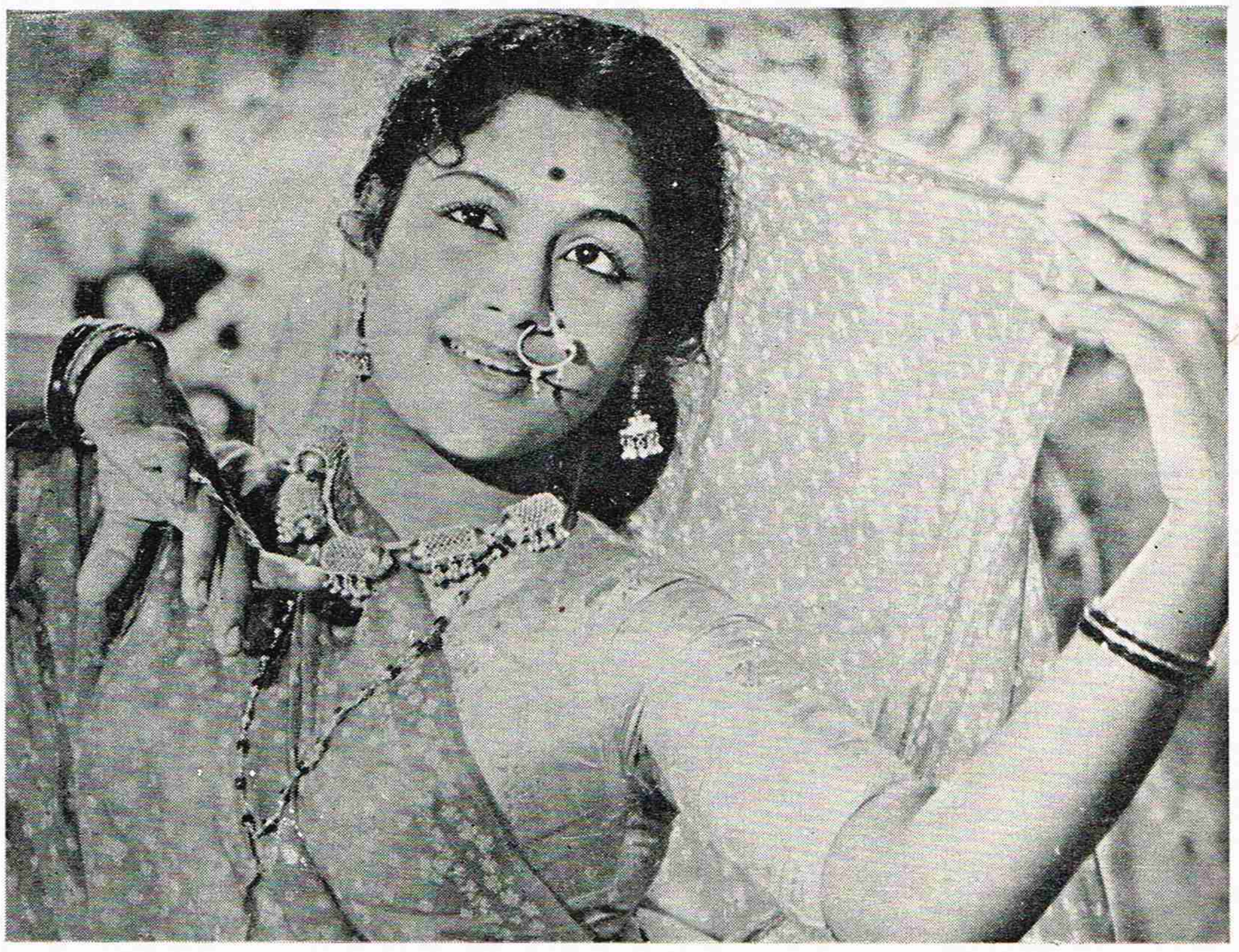
What is the tragedy of Nehru's life?

He has no woman of his own to air his self-martyrdom at the end of the day.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

What does Chandulal Shah sell these days?

His glib tongue and grey hair.



When a woman draws attention to her treasures in that pointed manner, she is ready for many enterprises. Raja Sulochana brings some rare sex-appeal to the screen in "Chori Chori", a romantic tale produced by AVM.

What has Mahavir Tyagi done so far?

He has silently enjoyed his big post. He will be made a governor next.

What do you admire in B. C. Roy?

His height. It makes all the Bengalis look up to him and human beings look up only while begging or praying.

How are Hindus recognized in Pakistan?

They look cleaner owing to their daily bath.

Is Goharbai imaginative?

Imagination is all that remains after everything else has gone with the wind.

Has D. G. Tendulkar got "Padma Vibhushan" for his "Mahatma"?

He was offered one. But he seems to want "Bharat Ratna", nothing less.

What is Jayant Desai's interest in Nirupa due to?

Jayant is a religious type—the only one from Bulsar. He produces mythological pictures and deceives himself by looking upon Nirupa as a mythological goddess.

Where would Kishore Kumar end?

If he misses the mad hospital, he will at least get a nervous breakdown.

MRS. RAJANI DEVI (Bombay)

Are Morarji's brakes sound?

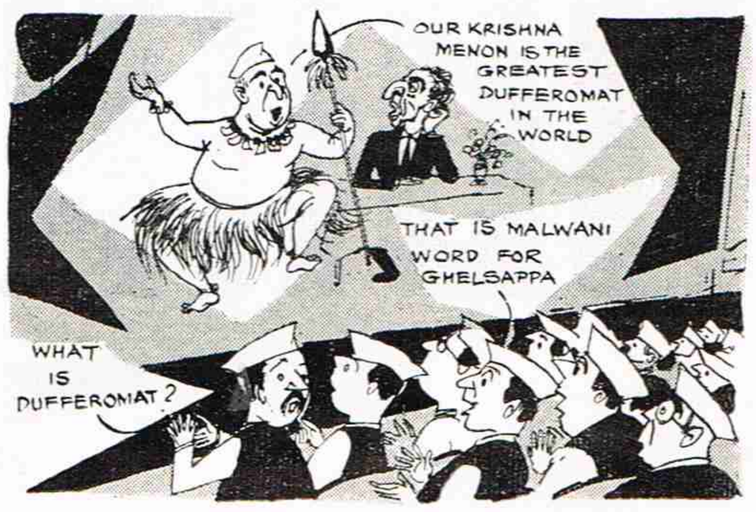
Yes, he postponed his funeral and disappointed the Ahmedabadis.

What do you admire in Dr. H. N. Kunzru?

His Kashmiri complexion. He is a finer model than Nehru. Nehru has ugly hands.

They say S. K. Patil is a classical singer?

He also sings 'thumris' and film songs. Patil takes his tune from the ears of his audience.



P. S. GOEL (Meerut)

Are Bombayites grateful to Morarji or to God?

To God, for giving them Morarji. Other provinces have missed the humour we have had.

Why do people call you innumerable names?

Do you know the number of names Lord Krishna was called?

What is your aim in keeping dogs?

Don't I deserve a little genuine love at the end of a hard day?

Women can never understand why men need wine when they can supply all the intoxication! Johnny Walker, at least, needs some wine to keep his humour with a fresh one like Minoo Mumtaz in "Mai Baap", a romantic thriller produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

Why do women become bold after marriage?

All their accidents after marriage automatically get a father.

SHIV K. PARTI (Pilani)

Nargis has no sympathisers?

The other woman never has anyone's sympathy, home being still the greatest achievement of man.

GENGHAS KHAN (Burma)

The Reds pay me 10 yen for each copy of "filmindia" with an additional allowance of 5 yen for translating your articles into Chinese.

The Communists always respect criticism. They want to improve themselves and be perfect criminals.

You have been listed as an "economic criminal No. 2" of Bharat by the ruling Reds!

Who is No. 1?

MISS P. M. BAILEY (Meerut)

Is Dilip worth dreaming about?

No! Even a dream must have character enough to come true some day.

BULO T. HARISINGANEY (Thana)

When shall I be allowed to handle a rifle?

Isn't there a rifle club at Thana? Shout for one if you don't have one.

SURINDER KUMAR (Jullundur)

What is Amjad Ali doing now in Pakistan?

He is doing all the dirty work for the Americans. Amjad is destined to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

MISS TABASSUM YASMEEN (Patna)

Why don't they make films for children in India?

There is a Children's Film Society operating under our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I see its operations in Bombay with its Secretary giving expensive dinners to pretty female artistes. Evidently a lot can be done in the name of innocent children. The Society is destined to fail.

VITHAL A. BHATIA (Bahrain)

I wish Mr. Krishna Menon becomes the next Prime Minister of India?

You are hostile to the future of our press photographers. You can't keep India in the news with a negative all the time.

C. MOHAMMED ALI (Madras)

I don't want to vote for the Congress. Which party is the next choice?

The Congress will supply you with a Muslim candidate. Don't get excited so soon.

No mourning in Pakistan on Jinnah's death anniversary?

The mourning is left to Muslims in India. In India Muslims celebrated the anniversary this year by staging what is known as "book riots" and killing several Hindus.

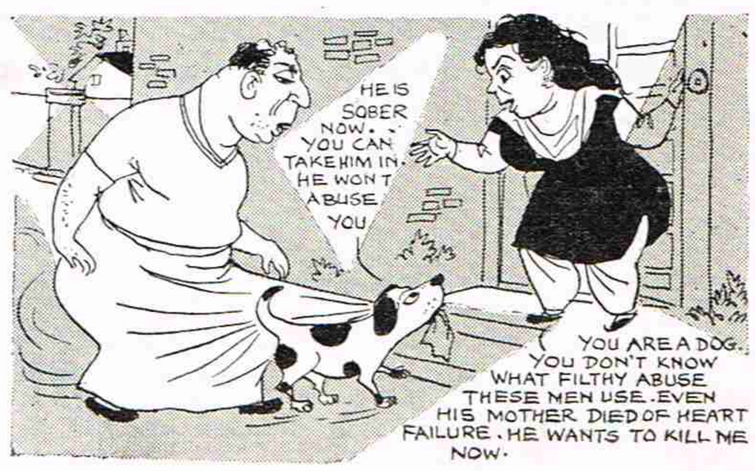
The price of rice is increasing?

And Nehru says the first Five-Year Plan is a great success.

PRITHI PAL (Moradabad)

Do you believe that there can be nothing wrong with a person who is loved by dogs?

Dogs are blind and stupid lovers. They love even our film Punjabis, some of whom are disowned by their own mothers.


HE IS SOBER NOW.. YOU CAN TAKE HIM IN. HE WON'T ABUSE YOU
YOU ARE A DOG. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT FILTHY ABUSE THESE MEN USE. EVEN HIS MOTHER DIED OF HEART FAILURE. HE WANTS TO KILL ME NOW.

E. V. CHHAPWALEY (Uran)

I have got squeaky shoes. What can I do about it?

Don't you need some noise in the hole you live?

C. P. MALGI (Hubli)

Do you depend on what people give you?

That is right. I have not started committing dacoities yet.

C. G. VISVANATHAN (Bombay)

Your editorials are spicy and juicy but does your message reach its destination?

It does because I am often hit by the rebound.

NANDKUMAR AILANI (Kalyan)

Dr. Khan Saheb arrested his own brother?

And AVM produced the picture "Bhai Bhai".

Shri G. L. Nanda shows much inclination towards sadhus?

That is where he'll escape when all our Five-Year Plans fail. He knows that Indians don't hang sanyasis.

C. P. N. MURTI (Emani)

It's Ashok Kumar all the way from Devika Rani to Ameeta?

And we call our film industry progressive and enterprising.

S. D. SHUKLA (Rajgarh)

Can faith cure a disease?

Yes, except hunger. That needs food to cure.

PRABHU DAYAL (Ajmer)

Is Rs. 20/- the final price of "Burning Words"?

Yes, the book has become big and expensive and I don't think the publishers are making any money in it. But the book is worth buying.

Is Shri Morarji going to be another Mahatma?

To become a Mahatma you need at least a million blind followers. Morarji could not collect even a hundred followers.

MRS. KAMALA V. NATH (Poona)

How sacred is the cow now?

As long as there are 40 million Muslims in India the cow will always be sacred. The presence of Muslims puts a premium on the cow as a useful, communal irritant. Long before the Muslims came into India, the cow was neglected for centuries till she reached her present state of destitution.

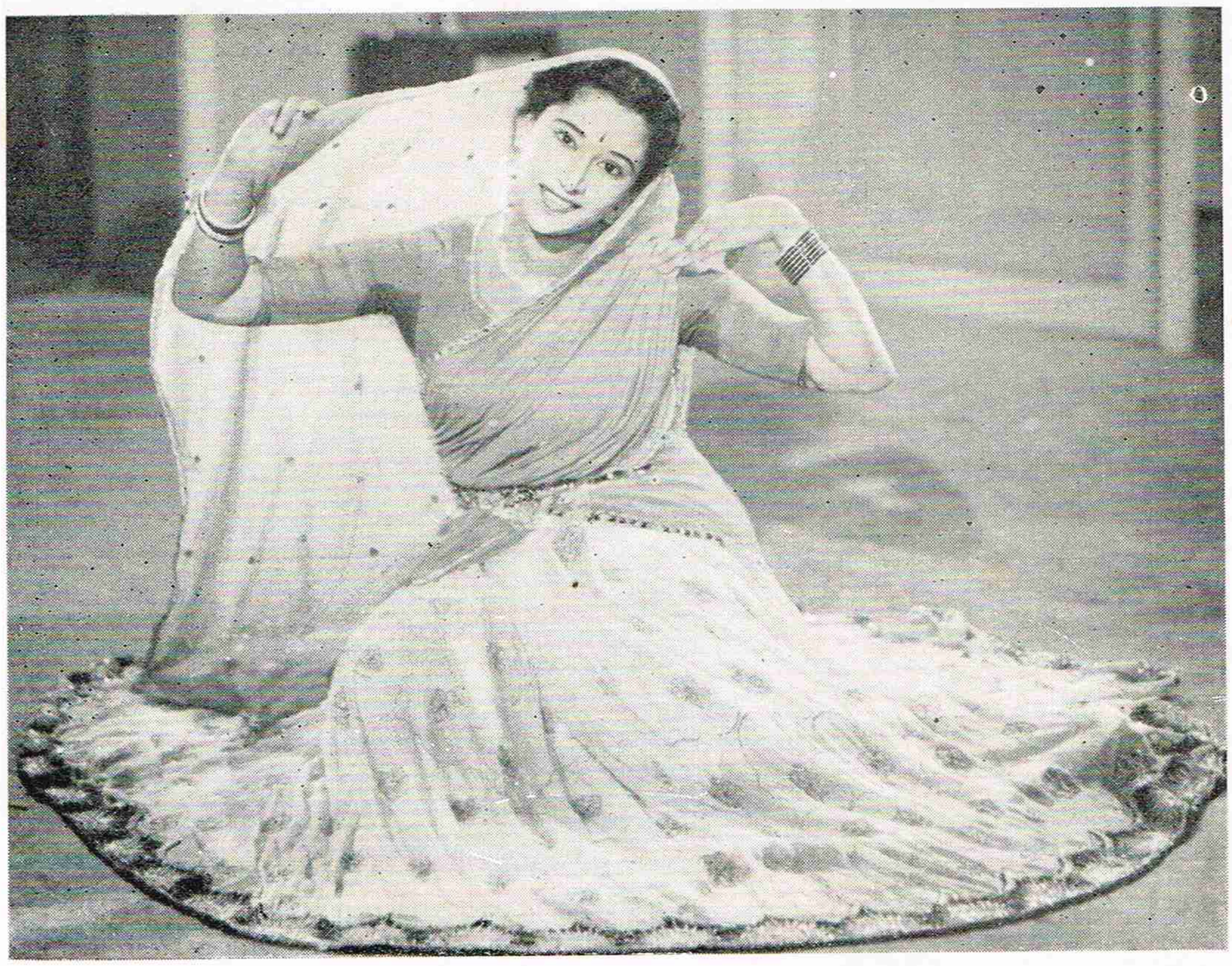
They tried Prohibition in America too!

In America they try everything once. In India stupidity grows whiskers.

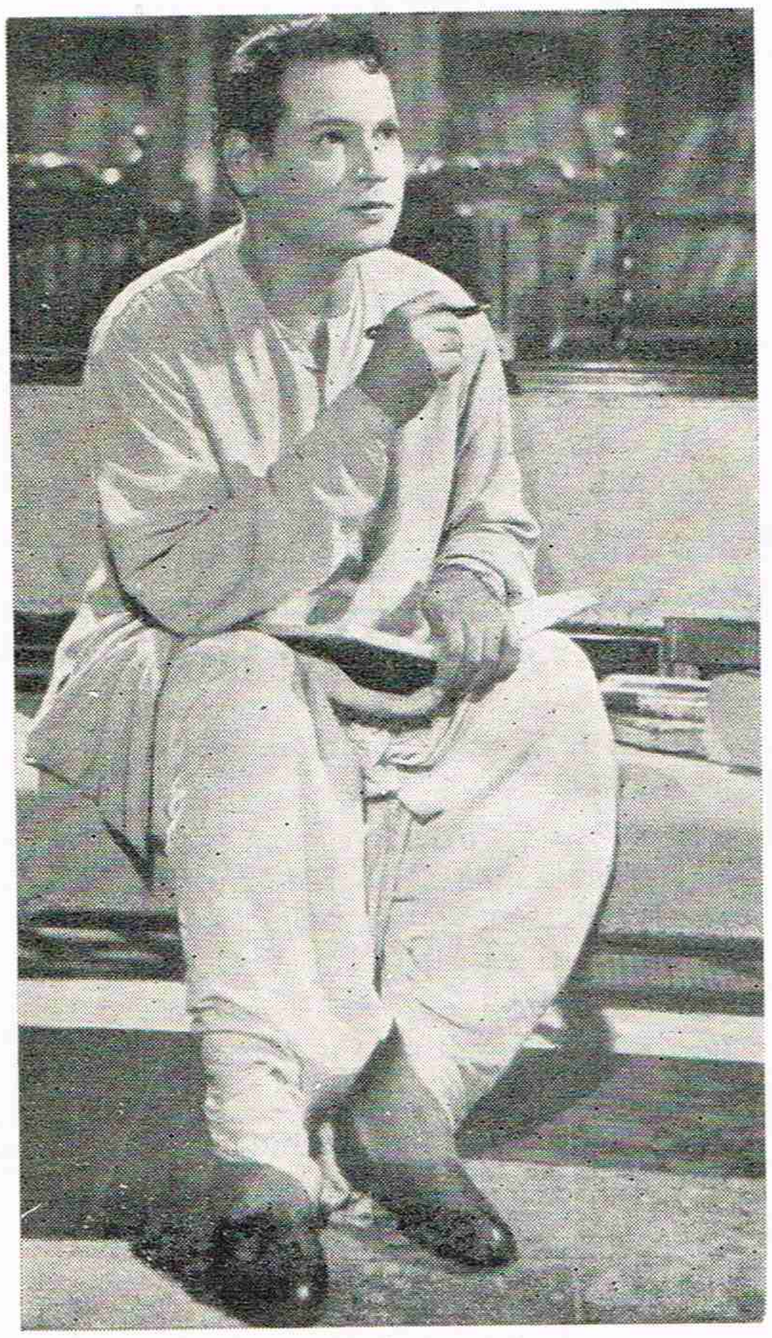
On what pillars does a brothel stand?

A brothel is a one-pole circus with the pole planted in the hungry stomach of a woman.

Who is Dr. Radhakrishnan?



These days, housewives also dance at the least provocation and it has become difficult for husbands to keep in step with them. Here is Sabita Chatterjee doing a "nakhra-natyam" in "Parivar", a domestic tale.

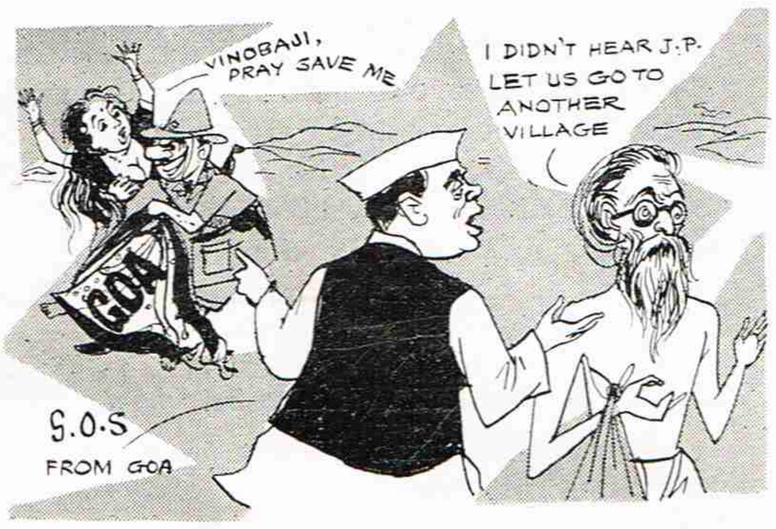


Visible thinking! You can almost see the gray lumps inside shifting themselves and taking new poses. Some actors have to think so obviously because their thought is so microscopic. Jairaj does some visible thinking in "Parivar", the crowded family yarn produced by Bimal Roy Productions.

That is a man who made the Congress rabble look wise and got paid for it.

Who inherited Gandhiji's truthfulness?

Even Vinoba Bhave doesn't seem to be anxious to carry the weight of the cross. The rest don't come into reckoning at all.



When does a man weigh words before speaking?

The bills have all male addresses.

What can hundred per cent literacy make of India?

India will become a Communist paradise.

When is Morarji caught unawares?

The Ahmedabadis caught him napping.

What does Shobhana provide for Nutan?

Footprints to a future.

Does Nehru believe in trial and error?

Yes. He is always in error and we are always on trial.

Who is Leelavati Munshi?

That is a cultural question requiring archaeological research.

Is Raj Kapoor paid more for overacting?

The Kapoors are all very generous in acting. When you expect a pound, they give you a ton.

How is Rajghat on every 30th January?

Death wears royal robes on that day.

What did Sohrab Modi gain by defaming Victor Hugo?

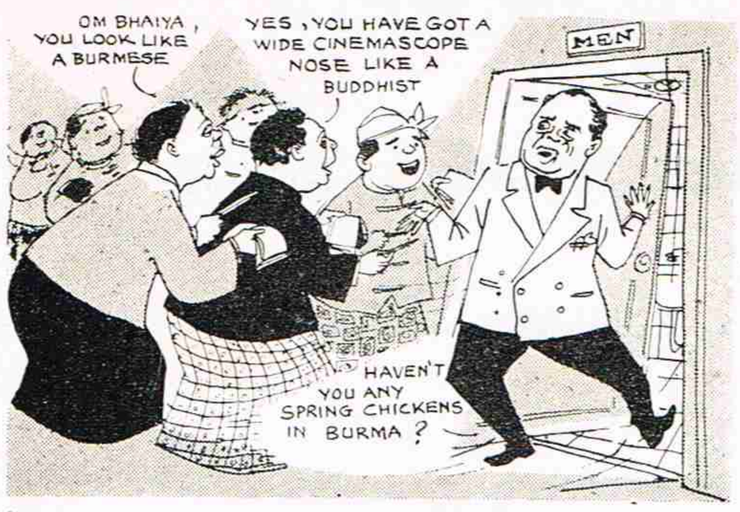
To hell with Hugo! To us Sohrab is important. He has Mehli and Mehtab to look after.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER

1st Prize to Subhash J. Rele (Bombay); 2nd Prize to K. M. Rao (Calcutta); 3rd Prize to Mrs. Kamala V. Nath (Poona); 4th Prize to Jagdish Jain (Hapur) and 10 consolation prizes to the following:— K. Viswanathan (Calcutta); M. Manavalan (Guntakal); Vir B. S. Chauhan (Mainpuri); C. S. Sundararaman (Chromepet); Miss Manik Bhandare (Bombay); Chunilall Sarhadi (Faridabad); P. S. Godbole (Indore); S. R. Mhatre (Bombay); N. S. Pabbi (New Delhi) and Miss Tabassum Yasmeen (Patna). Money orders are being sent to all the prize winners.

When does Om Prakash look miserable?

When he has Burmese fans chasing him.


OM BHAIYA, YOU LOOK LIKE A BURMESE
YES, YOU HAVE GOT A WIDE CINEMASCOPE NOSE LIKE A BUDDHIST
MEN
HAVEN'T YOU ANY SPRING CHICKENS IN BURMA?

Did Americans leave an everlasting impression in Japan?

They planted a new race of crossbreeds who will continue to foul the cradle with their treachery.

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The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 10|- each.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order.

Cut the coupons below and fix them to your questions if you want to be answered quickly.

1 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE NOVEMBER 1956

2 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE NOVEMBER 1956

3 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE NOVEMBER 1956

Who is Patanwala?

That is the man who supplies perfumes to Muslims in place of a bath.

Is there no statue worship?

Haven't you been to Mount Mary Church in Bandra? It is statue worship at its best.

Are there hidden treasures in Bombay?

If you call illicit liquor a treasure, we have King Solomon's mines in Bombay.

Why do Socialists remember Sane Guruji?

Like Christians they are trying to base a hot gospel on a cold corpse.

C. V. RAJAN (Calcutta)

C. Ramchandra looks like a drunkard?

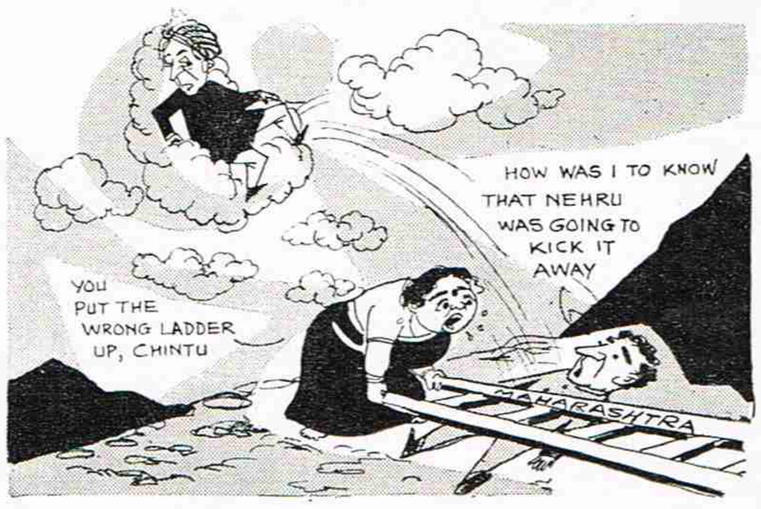
Prohibition makes many people look like that in Bombay. Their imagination has a greater kick than liquor.

J. C. Jain is more popular than you?

He fills five hundred people every month so that he may feel the difference.

Why is Durgabai sad?

Because Chintu got crushed under his own ladder.



M. S. VISVANATHAN (Poona)

What is Friday in Pakistan?

National washing day. The nation smells less for four hours after Juma prayers.

Ram and Rahim are one?

Only in heaven—not on earth! On earth Rahim moves about with a knife in hand.

What exactly does Lohia want?

He now wants a lunatic asylum.

When is truth accepted by millions?

When a man like Gandhi dies. Death is one truth which millions quietly accept.

What does Shantaram say about you these days?

His opinion has ceased to matter.

K. ARAVINDA (Madras)

Is there magic in the word "Nehru"?

The Ahmedabad students did not think so.

MAHARAJ KRISHAN (New Delhi)

Do you know that rape is an offence in Pakistan?

Must be because there are no Hindu women left there.

SUSHIL K. BHAWSINGHKA (Bombay)

If Bombay is called 'Paris of India'?

Paris without wine?

S. CHAKRAPANI (Bombay)

What are the achievements of our first Five-Year Plan?

20,000 workers of the Damodar Valley are threatened with unemployment at the end of the First Plan. That is one item. Imagine the rest.

P. VISHWANADHA RAO (New Delhi)

I understand that the anti-aircraft gun of our second-hand flagship 'Delhi' fires at only 90 degrees angle and every time it does so, half of the ship sinks under the water. Just imagine!

I heard that the whole ship touches the bottom of the sea and comes up again. The Navy boys tell me that 'Delhi' is a surface-and-submarine combination ship.

HARIRAM G. JUGAT (Bombay)

A. K. Chanda, Deputy Minister for External Affairs took a "cultural" delegation of 36 members to Russia and East Europe. Is our money so cheap?

We are all working on Nehru's private estate. Slave labour cannot ask questions.

VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

Kamini is again in films?

Filmistan must have some flops too, otherwise the income tax will be very heavy.

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

What is the tragedy with Ambalal Patel?

He has to call the people to reveal his presence.

Apte was also hanged with Godse?

He got the rope without the robe of history.

Is Mr. M. C. Chagla a Brahmin?

Yes, what else could a Chief Justice be? He certainly cannot be a mere Muslim.

Your daughter married a Muslim. Doesn't it hurt you?

Oh, no! I am happy that at least one Muslim is learning his lesson.

If an Anglo-Indian girl winks at your son Shashi?

He immediately drags her to church. The boy is very religious by nature.

I AM A PROTESTANT, SASSI, YOU ARE A CATHOLIC
CATHOLIC? THAT WAS LAST SUNDAY WITH MARIA. I WAS BORN A PROTESTANT THOUGH. COME. WE'LL MARRY

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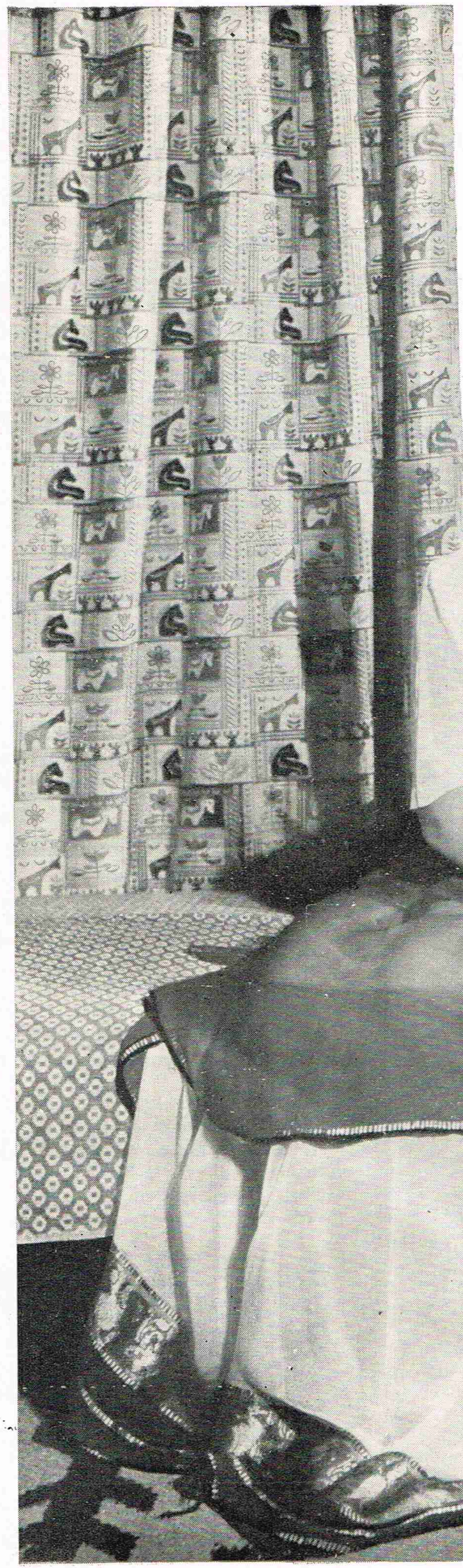

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PSDC-13

This section is the monopoly of "JUDAS" and he writes what he likes and about things which he likes. The views expressed here are not necessarily ours, but they carry weight because they are written by a man who knows his job.

DR. KESKAR'S AWARD TAMASHA

Dr. Keskar's much-boosted annual show for giving State Awards to Indian films badly flopped this year. The Indian film industry did not take part in the show at all and even some of the top Award winners like Satyajit Ray, the director of "Pather Panchali" and V. Shantaram, the producer-director of "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" did not bother about going to New Delhi for the presentation ceremony. It was like staging "Hamlet" without the King of Denmark.

The Prime Minister had to give away the Awards to the poorly paid publicity officers of the winners. Calling our busy Prime Minister to do this was like using a cannon to kill a fly. Those present could have been saved a few blushes of the disgrace of the whole affair.

Congressmen learn little from their failure. A blind arrogant man like Dr. Keskar learns still less. He is out to teach others a lesson of their life. A stage, however, has reached now where film folks refuse to go near Dr. Keskar or his funny Ministry. So now Dr. Keskar can hold his class for teaching—all by himself with Secretary P.M. Lad as his only pupil.

Film folks now do not care what Dr. Keskar, his Ministry or his Government do to our film industry. They consider the Government as hostile and hateful. The iron has entered their soul and our producers now do not mind if they have to burn down the whole damn industry rather than dance attendance on an arrogant person like Dr. Keskar. Quite a few producers are already thinking of diverting their energies to some other trade or industry.

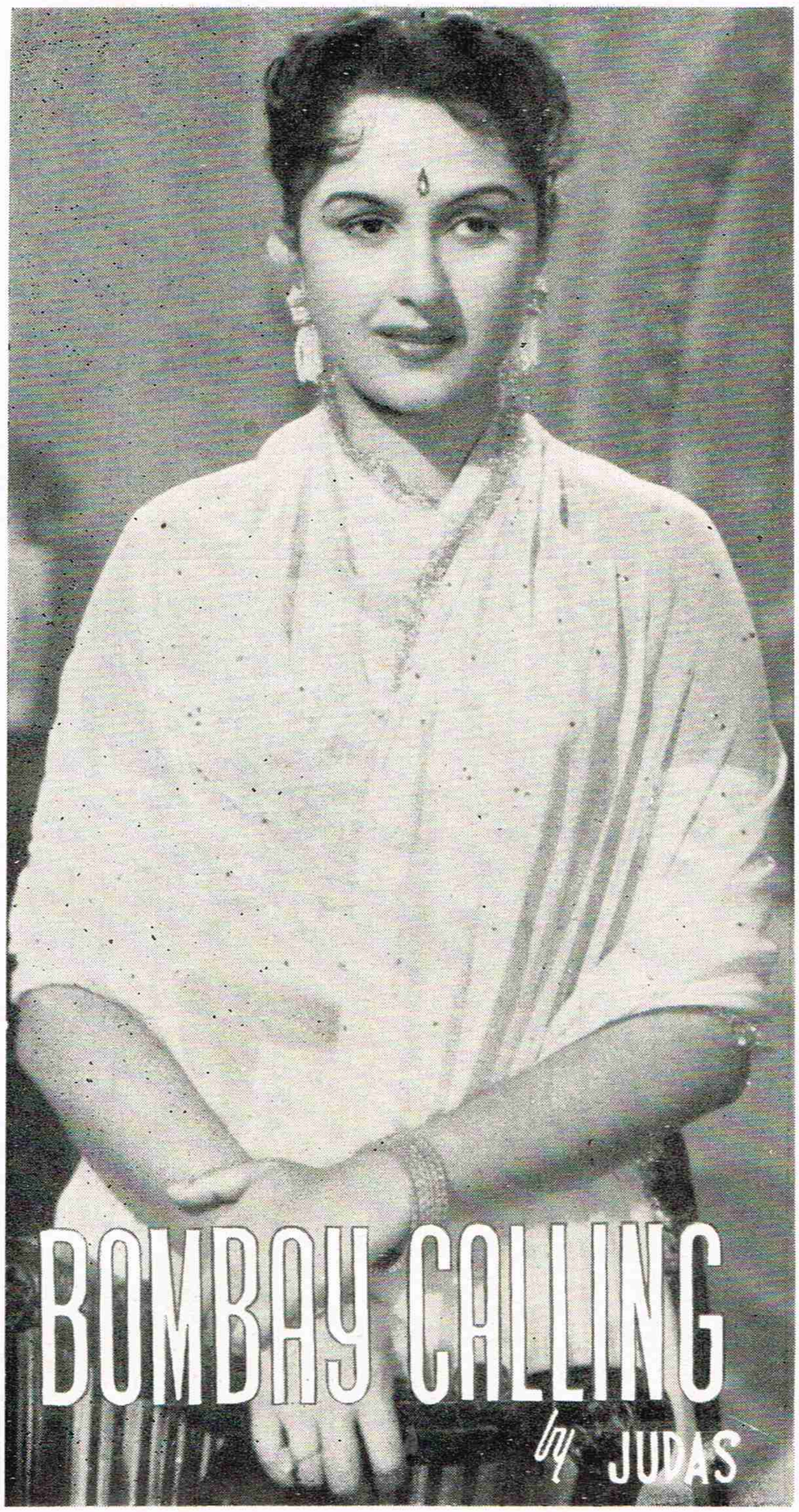
Our film folks are disgusted—disgusted with everything that Dr. Keskar and his Government represent. They are disgusted with the shabby treatment Dr. Keskar has given them during the last four years. They are disgusted with his arrogance. They are disgusted with his stupidity. They are disgusted with his censorship and tyranny. And they are disgusted with his overwise, bilious and dominating Secretary, Lad.

Both Minister Keskar and Secretary Lad have made themselves so thoroughly odious to the film industry that even a man like Mr. S. S. Vasan with his almost divine patience got disgusted with the Lad-Keskar plans, designs and intrigues and resigned his post as the President of the Film Federation.

The result of Mr. Vasan's withdrawal from the scene was only too obvious at the recently held Award-presentation function in New Delhi. While the very first Award-presentation function was attended by over 400 colourful film celebrities lending a new rainbow to New Delhi, the 1956 function was attended only by Raj Kapoor and the two baldies, Motilal and David. Even V. Shantaram, the apple of the Lad-Keskar Maharashtrian eyes, did not care to rush up to New Delhi to take a silver medal and a paper certificate from Keskar's Government—Sandhya being a more substantial award in Bombay.

Dr. Keskar's annual "tamasha" thus failed and it would be wiser to scrap the entire Award business as no one in the film industry either wants the Government Awards or even appreciates them.

The Awards mean nothing to a film industry from which the very joy of creative work has been robbed by



Once they cross the frontiers of youth and meet with accidents in a new land, they soon develop a patient poise of experience. A woman of experience needs more fuel to her emotions to reach the boiling point. Bina Rai plays a woman of experience in "Talaash" a social tale directed by Vishram Bedekar.

self-righteous and arrogant satraps of Government. Next year, with Prohibition enforced in New Delhi, it will be very difficult to induce even David, Motilal and Raj Kapoor to go to New Delhi at their own expense.

As whatever Minister Keskar and Secretary Lad touch or sponsor is bound to fail, because of their wrong approach to the human factor in our film industry, it would be wiser to discontinue the farce of Annual Awards to films and save some money.

But if the Government is really keen on popularizing the State Awards and encouraging the Indian film industry it must do the following things immediately:

(1) Get rid of the arrogant Minister and his bilious Secretary and appoint intelligent and sympathetic people who will consider the film folks as citizens of the same country as themselves and the film industry as an indigenous industry.

That child looks dangerously like Vyjayantimala. Does the similarity hide a secret? Oh, no! It is a screen casting well done. Meet Vijay and Vyjayantimala in "Kath Putli", a social theme produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

(2) The Awards must be given more substance than a few tolas of gold or silver found in the medals and a meaningless citation on a cheap parchment paper. Winners of President's and Prime Minister's medals should be refunded the entire Entertainment Tax collected on their pictures by the States while those getting second and third Awards should respectively get a refund of 50% and 33 1|3% of the Entertainment Tax collected on their pictures.

(3) The winning pictures should be declared exempt from further Entertainment Tax by a special decree of the President.

(4) The producers of the first three pictures in Hindi should automatically get financial help for their future productions from the financing corporation Government intends to establish, as the winners automatically prove themselves as men of merit.

(5) The winner of the President's Gold Medal should be automatically made one of the Padma title holders to raise the man and the industry he represents to the level of other trades and occupations of national importance in which achievements are recognized by conferring the Padma distinction.

(6) Hold the annual Film Award function in Bombay—the main centre of our film industry—along with an annual Film Festival attended by the President, the Prime Minister and other popular dignitaries of the State. New Delhi cannot be the centre of all national activities.

(7) Only the first three winning pictures in Hindi should be allowed to go overseas every year for compet-

"When I gazed at her
My heart throbbed in a pleasant anguish,
Her dark hair as dense as clouds, broke
Into gentle waves to cover her bed".

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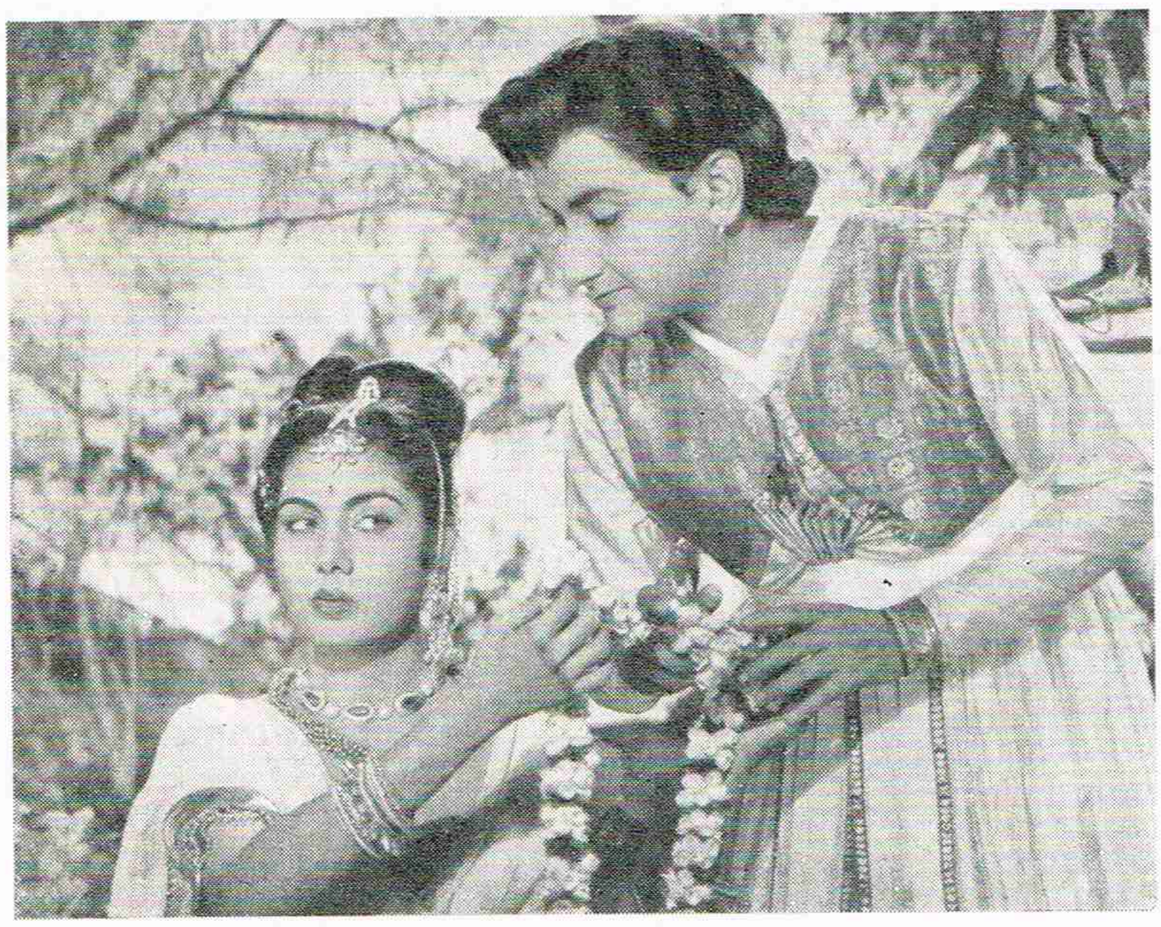


By nature a woman is suspicious. She sees a snake even in a garland of flowers. And perhaps rightly so because she is the one who has to lose everything. Here is a suspicious exchange of love between Nimmi and Bharat Bhushan in "Angulimala", a costume romance produced by Thai Information Service.

ing at different film festivals at Government expense and directly under Government sponsorship.

(8) The Government of India should not bother about extending its recognition to pictures produced in provincial languages. The merit in such pictures should be recognized and rewarded by their own provincial governments. This will automatically give an opportunity to linguistic fanatics to popularize their own films. The Central Government should scrupulously concentrate on pictures produced in Hindi, the national language of the country. The present practice of giving silver medals and paper certificates to trashes and tortures produced in Tamil, Telugu and other languages is at once wrong and ridiculous. The Central Government must have a national outlook and not a narrow provincial one in this matter. And for a wide national outlook, only one language can be considered, and that is Hindi—the national language.

(9) The souvenir literature such as the history of the State Awards, programme, etc. should contain simple expression, correct English and artistic photos. And this literature should not contain commercial advertisements. The 1956 Programme Of State Awards For Films —a 28-page badly written, shoddy affair—contains 16 pages of commercial advertisements. Should an art function also smell of groceries?

Unless the entire spirit and method of these film awards are changed on lines suggested by us there is not the slightest chance of the Awards ever becoming popular with our film folks for whom they are primarily meant as an encouragement.

And till this whole clumsy business is overhauled, the annual "tamasha" will continue to fail more and more every year till a day will come when no one will accept even a registered parcel from New Delhi.

INJUSTICE TO V. SHANTARAM

Freedom hit us so suddenly that we were caught with our pants down. Not knowing what to do we looked West and started pulling up our pants to match ourselves with them.

One of our aping acts is the State Film Award. It is supposed to compete with Hollywood's Academy Awards, which is a private racket of the producers themselves, having nothing to do with the Government of the United States. But as our Government found no foreign Government officially giving away prizes to film producers, it had to ape a private racket of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences, a commèrcial ballyhoo affair, to keep itself in news.

So in 1954, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting instituted several awards for encouraging production of films of "high aesthetic and technical standard and of educational and cultural value."

When the Central Government gives these awards, it is assumed that the language of the winning pictures would be Hindi, the national language of the country, and the theme would have a country-wide appeal, and

that pictures in a provincial language confining the theme and subject to a narrow, parochial outlook would not be considered.

But the two Maharashtrians in charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting pushed up Maharashtra with a vengeance when in the very first year the big prize went to "Shyamchi Aai", a Marathi picture produced by P. K. Atre. Atre's picture was good and certainly deserved provincial recognition but it was not big enough for the whole of India. Anyway Atre got a chance to put the medal round his neck and spell his name as "Pee-Kay" Atre on many occasions of felicitation. Seeing Atre in a happy mood after a gruelling period of failure and frustration was in itself some gain and consolation to all intellectual workers.

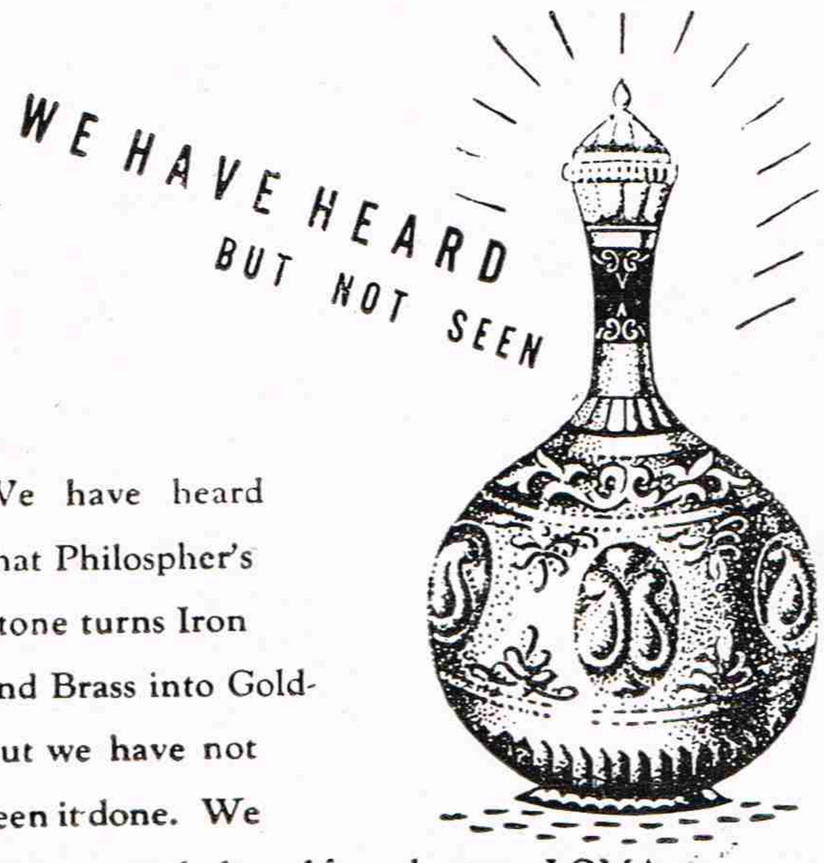
While Atre's picture had at least some intellectual claim to the President's Medal, the second year's Award winner, "Mirza Ghalib" did not have even a flavour of artistic or intellectual merit. The Award given to this picture was a complete surprise to everyone including its producer who seemed to receive the medal from the President in a somnambulistic stupor.

Radha and Krishna were the greatest flirts known in history. Their joys and sighs became the songs of a nation. Asha and Vyjayantimala show us how they did their love tricks in "Aasha", a romantic tale produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

But this year's Award beat the intellectual feats of previous two years hollow. The President's Gold Medal was given this year to "Pather Panchali", a long documentary in Bengali, the Silver Medal was given to "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", a cultural tale of India in Technicolor and the third prize—a certificate of merit—was awarded to "Shri 420", an unblushing crime picture.

Only one picture from these three meets fully the essential condition of the Awards as laid down by the Government, "high aesthetic and technical standard and of educational and cultural value". And that picture is "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje".

"Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" tells the ancient cultural story of India in modern terms of art and colour with as high an aesthetic and technical standard as can be achieved under present conditions of motion picture production in India. If personal enterprise is to be rewarded, Shantaram, the producer of this picture, should not only have been given the President's Gold Medal but should have also been honoured with a Padma Vibhushan, because Shantaram produced this picture under the most heartbreaking conditions of finance working day and night with only an artist's pride as his capital. As a



We have heard that Philospher's Stone turns Iron and Brass into Gold- but we have not seen it done. We have not only heard but also seen LOMA turning grey hair into dark hair.

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result of this hard and conscientious work, "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" has become a worthy milestone of art and progress in the history of Indian motion pictures. It was but proper that this achievement should have been rightly recognized and crowned by the State. Doing so would have meant doing justice to an artist. But that was not done.

"Pather Panchali", which got the President's Gold Medal, the top honour of the year, does not meet the essential condition as laid down by the Government, "high aesthetic and technical standard and of educational and cultural value". "Pather Panchali" is a highly realistic human document and like the life and human beings it portrays it is ugly—stark realism being always ugly—and there is therefore nothing "highly aesthetic" in the picture. The aesthetic has necessarily to be soothing. The "beauty" in "Pather Panchali" is shocking. It is the "beauty" of a stark tragedy—a food for the sadist which does not contribute to entertainment. And these Awards are mainly meant for the products of an entertainment industry.

Morbid realism which is the keynote of "Pather Panchali" has again taken away the beauty from the happy excellence of motion picture technique for entertainment. The sound, the camera, the lights—all are used with their vivid, ugly power for a fixed purpose of exciting pity and social conscience.

Nor has the picture any positive educational and cultural value. The picture shows an isolated and perhaps a typically unfortunate family in poverty-stricken Bengal years ago. If the picture reveals a mirror of present day Bengal, it brings home the disgrace of the situation to Dr. B.C. Roy, the Chief Minister of Bengal. If it is a picture of the olden days its present educational value disappears. Whatever way you look at it, "Pather Panchali" remains only a realistic nightmare of human misery. The picture charges the filmgoer with anger and self-pity. It therefore becomes a bad entertainment and this does not fulfil the main condition of the State Awards.

Strangely enough, and unwisely too, this grim picture portraying poverty, misery and misfortune of an unfortunate Bengali family in an obscure Bengali village, was sent as a picture representative of India and her people to the Cannes Film Festival by our Ministry of Informa-

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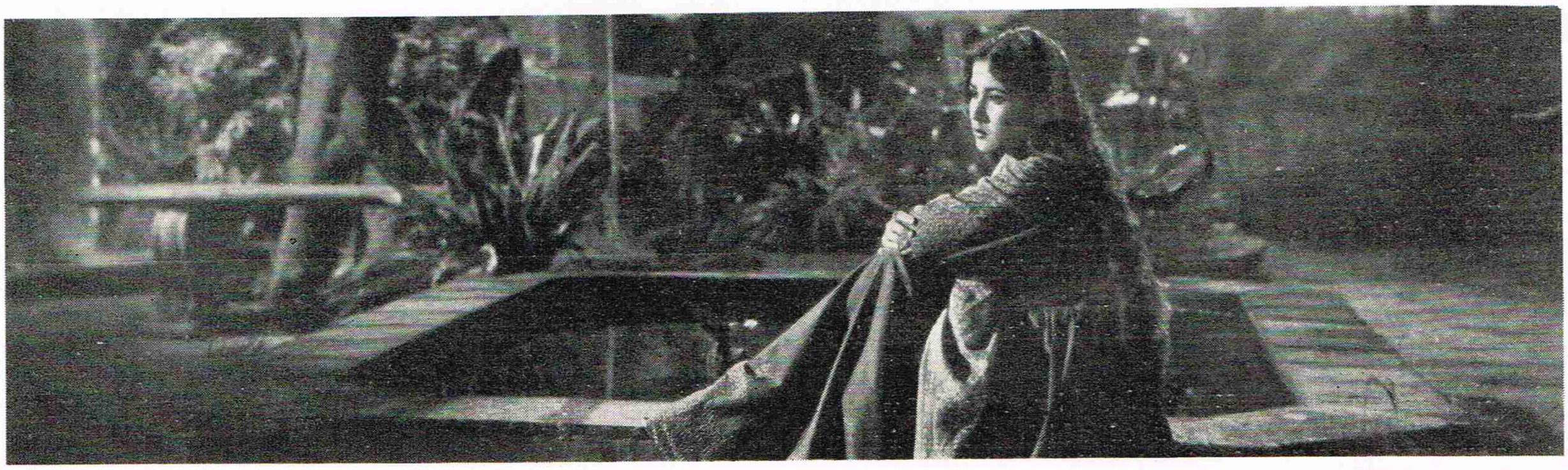


Lonely nights make love an agonising emotion because the moon brings home the memory of stolen nights of romance in those days when behind every tree hid the lover to make his love more tantalizing. Meena Kumari misses Dilip Kumar very badly in "Yahudi-ki-Larki", a sensational romance produced by Savak Vacha.

tion and Broadcasting. It thus took the shame and poverty of our country to foreign countries and provided an argument against us not only to the White Man of the West but also to the Christian Missionary who wants to sell us Christ by pointing out our shame to us.

When "Pather Panchali" was shown in London our High Commissioner, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, was so much ashamed of it that she had a special title exhibited saying that the conditions portrayed in the picture existed during the pre-freedom days and not now. This apology made the British people look at the picture more critically than before and quite a few British papers wrenched off the old lady's smiling mask by stating that the picture depicted conditions as prevalent in India today.

"Pather Panchali" may be a good lesson in social conscience for home consumption but it certainly is not a picture to be sent overseas. It tears the Congress mask of hypocrisy too callously with its stark realism. Motion pictures which are seen mainly by the masses must carry a showroom advertising story of the country and not a backyard tale of its distress and misery. All countries when approached from behind look ugly. Then where is the sense in sending out to the foreigners a picture which shows our behind with all its piles and fissures? "Pather Panchali" may be art for the conscience, but certainly not for commerce.

Moreover the State Awards are intended to encourage an industry which pays crores of rupees in taxes every year to the State. "Pather Panchali" is not the product of an organized industry—it is the product of a frustrated individual crying for recognition. It is a good picture for occasional confession and curiosity but no one can build an industry on it. Ten more pictures like "Pather Panchali" and the film industry in India will have to close down. But one "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" gives another lease of life to thousands of exhibitors because it has ingredients that sell as entertainment. Thus again from the viewpoint of encouraging an industry and developing it on aesthetic and artistic lines "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" ought to have got the President's Gold Medal.

We must therefore record here that a great injustice has been done to Producer V. Shantaram and his beautiful picture "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" by not awarding them the President's Gold Medal.

This injustice apart, the awarding of the third prize to "Shri 420" shows a perversion of judgement on the part of the judges, a perversion that is difficult to understand. "Shri 420" is a crime picture, which shows different tricks and techniques of crime and anti-social behaviour in its long footage and lightning reformation in its last hundred feet.

This picture was recommended by the Bombay Regional Committee of Judges of which the Chairman is M. D. Bhat, I.C.S., who is also the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Censors. The picture seems to have been recommended by the Committee without even seeing it because it is difficult to believe that members like Dr. Motichandra, Prof. Palande, Prof. Gokak and Mr. M.D. Bhat would err so grievously in their judgement as to select an unblushing crime picture for a State Award and thereby encourage more crime in the country.

The members of the Central Committee are again to be blamed for ratifying this choice. These illustrious members either did not see the picture or having gone to

Youth is a season of high tension and causes tension all round when presented with such ruthless arrogance. It will require a sadhu and a half to resist this appeal. It is a call to arms and only the brave will dare it. Let us see why Vyjayantimala is in this war paint in "New Delhi", the latest box-office hit.

Randhir rarely has such luck and when someone as pretty as Ameeta comes along, she plays only the little sister and makes Randhir feel and look old. Let us see what is this cat-pose about in "Be Zaban", a social tale.

see it slept through it, collecting afterwards a report from J. N. Ganju, the Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The certificate of merit given to "Shri 420" therefore suspiciously looks like a result of Ganju's suggestive therapy—Ganju's friendship with Raj Kapoor being thick enough to be a story by itself. Anyway, it is necessary to keep Ganju miles away from the judges in future. Ganju is a dangerous propagandist trying to convince people that Secretary Lad's brilliant ideas come out of Keskar's Neanderthal skull while half the time these ideas are Ganju's own designs for a good living.

Seeing the results during the last three years, we think that the entire system of judging the pictures for the Awards should be overhauled. We suggest the following improvements:

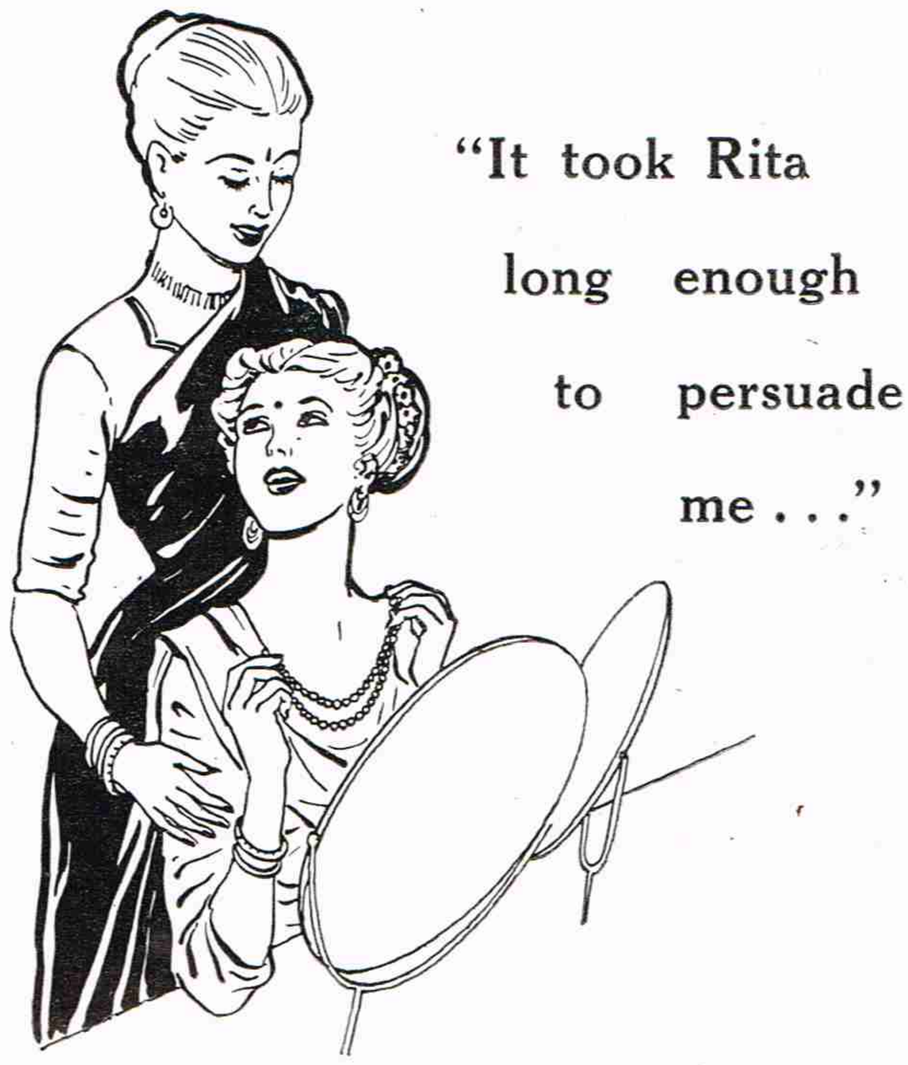
(a) Pictures in provincial languages should not be considered for the Awards at all.

(b) The initial selection of a certain number of pictures—not more than ten—should be made with the help of newspaper and trade paper criticisms. An intelligent and careful perusal of criticisms by critics of experience will yield a very useful and effective list of pictures for consideration.

(c) The final judgement should be an aggregate of the following values of a film: (1) The Social value—its advantage or disadvantage to society in general (2) The Entertainment value (3) The Commercial value—its utility to the film industry (4) The Aesthetic value

its art, beauty and cultural importance (5) The Technical value—technical progress of the various departments of motion picture production. Each value should be fully explained to the judges in a printed pamphlet and should be allotted 100 marks and the judges asked to give marks according to the merit of every value. The highest total should be given the President's Gold Medal, the next highest to the next award and so on. Values 1, 2 and 4 should be common to all, while values 3 and 5 should be judged only by specialists of the film industry.

(d) The judges for Values 1, 2 and 4 should be drawn from different walks of life as is being done at the moment. Judges for Values 3 and 5 should be specialists in different branches of the film industry, includ-



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ing motion picture criticism. At the moment film critics are scrupulously avoided because the one critic the Government cannot bypass happens to be a man named Baburao Patel. And that man also happens to be a critic of the Government. There are, however, others, even of lesser calibre, who should be taken on the Committee to secure an important opinion in judging the pictures.

(e) The marks allotted should be a sealed secret till the last second and counted only in the public on the day of the awards in the presence of the President. This element of suspense automatically dramatizes the whole event and provides excitement to all concerned. It will also guarantee the attendance of ten producers with their wives, stars, concubines and other appendages.

Many minor improvements in this plan can be made to make the Awards at once fair and popular. No producer can complain about the results obtained from such a method of judging even if he is beaten at the winning post. The present vague, verbal and open method of judging a picture without asking the judges to analyse and assess a picture in basic values and mathematical terms gives an opportunity to a propaganda hypnotist like Ganju to practise some suggestive therapy.

Have you ever heard of a man garlanding a woman after marriage with her? But before marriage man flatters the woman by calling her a goddess of his dreams—you know the dreams—and proves it by putting a garland round her neck. Nimmi is not quite sure of Bharat Bhushan's real intentions—knowing that he is a fresh widower—in "Angulimala", a costume tale of ancient days produced by Thai Information Service.

We do not expect the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to accept these suggestions because they are sensible and come from "Filmindia". But unless the whole Film Award business is radically overhauled, it is not going to be a success at all.

MINISTRY FOR STATE FUNERALS

A failure gives rise to many thoughts. Human beings are not so analytical in success as in failure. While a man accepts success with a smug satisfaction, he always wants to know why he failed and it is while discovering the causes of his failure that he often sows new seeds of success.

Last month Ganju, the Public Relations Officer of our Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, wanted to know why his annual Film Awards show failed and we have now published the reasons for his benefit in this section. Ganju also wanted to know why our film folks do not fly to Delhi on such State occasions which give them big publicity and in spite of his frantic requests to

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Women make a long face when men take their faces away to other women. Meena Kumari doesn't know where Dilip Kumar is and see the face she has pulled in "Yahudi-ki-Larki", a dramatic tale of love produced by Savak Vacha.

them? In his enthusiasm of the moment Ganju forgets that his own chronic disease—shortage of money—is the acute trouble of our film folks these days. A trip to Delhi—hotel, aeroplane, taxi and a small vengeance on Prohibition—costs nothing less than Rs. 1000/- per head on a modest scale. Film folks who usually like to take their opposite in sex to discuss sequences of the next production need much more money than the average mortal who visits New Delhi. Well, where are the film folks to get all the money from? When they make a good picture, the Government robs them and when they make a bad one, the Government drops them. In either case, our film folks are broke and they don't feel like attending someone else's wedding a thousand miles away, spending a thousand rupees, with the grocer growling at their own gate for six months.

That way Delhi is the last place on earth where any pleasant function should be held. Delhi has been our national cemetery through centuries of history. Look at the number of graves, tombs, 'mazars' 'maqbaras' of various shapes and sizes scattered all over the place. Add to them Rajghat—where "Phader" Gandhi receives flowers—and you get the picture of perhaps the most colourful cemetery in the world where all the great ones are found.

It is impossible to trace through history the first great man that was put to earth in Delhi but we know the last one who sleeps at Rajghat. And we can guess some of the great ones that are to follow. It is not proper that a place where the great dead lie should be violated by holding film and political festivals. We feel that Delhi should be turned into the National Cemetery of India (just as the Americans have got their Arlington National Cemetery) where all our great dead should be wrapped in khadi and reduced to dust quickly or slowly according to their religious prescriptions.

And as the great ones grow all over the country, since the Congress took over India, we must purchase the fastest jet plane to fly the khadi-wrapped corpses of great Congressmen to Delhi from any part of India within four hours from their last breath on earth and in good time before their bodies begin to let out the foul breath of their numerous sins. The Mountbattens can help us to select the speediest jet plane for this purpose.

And once in Delhi the khadi-wrapped corpses must be given quick State funerals before their stench gives the people some other epidemic like the jaundice Delhi

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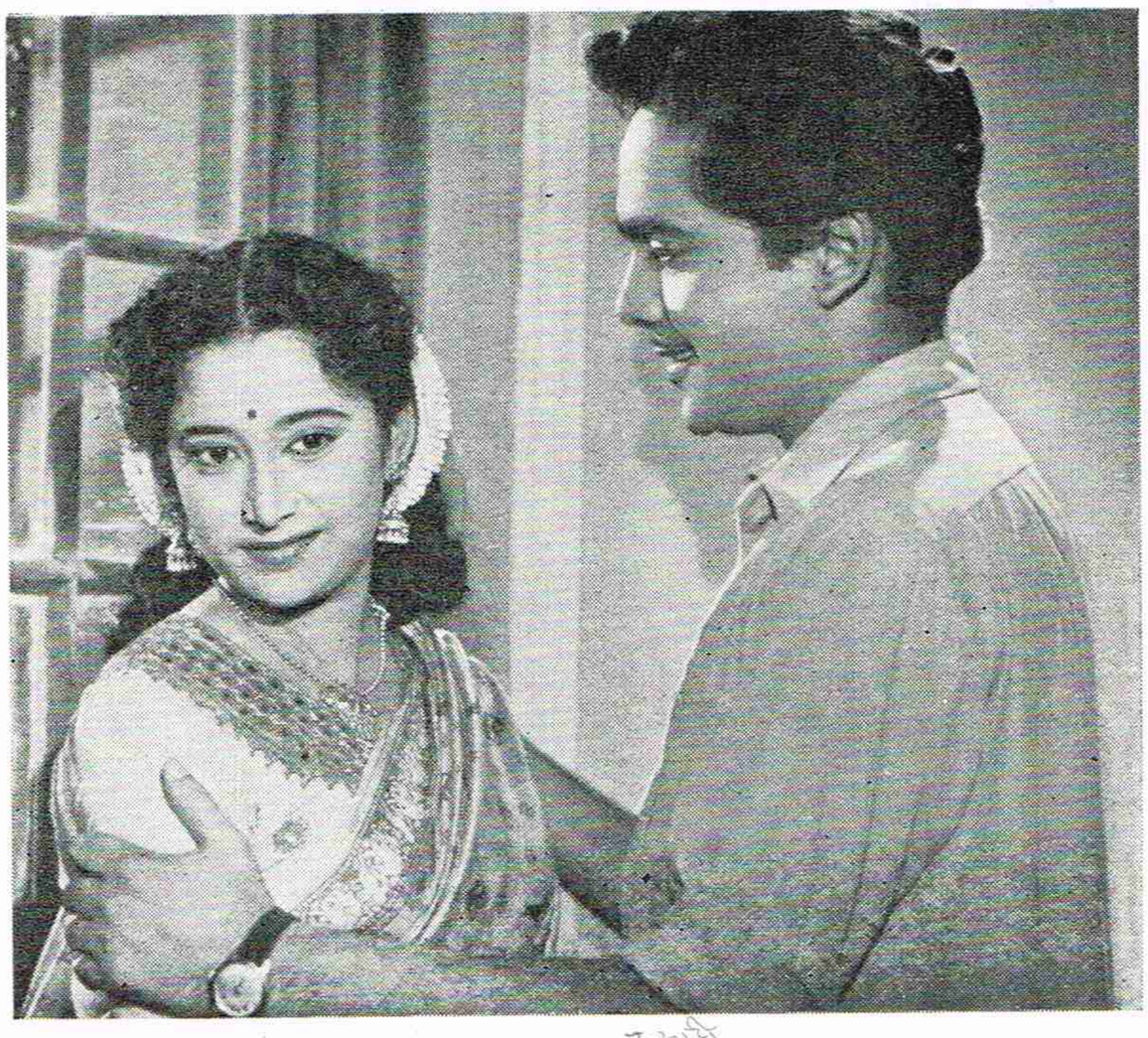
recently had. It would also be a good idea to burn or bury these khadi-clad heirs near or around "Phader" Gandhi at Rajghat, so that they automatically share the smell of the flowers which people bring for "Phader" on ceremonial occasions. By themselves other Congressmen have no chance of seeing any flowers—not even those removed from fresh corpses.

And it would not be a bad idea for the President to guarantee by an ordinance compulsory and complimentary state funerals in Delhi to all Congress ministers of whatever age or tenure, of whatever status or stupidity, in office or in retirement, in Delhi or outside, within 24 hours of the notice of death. A guarantee like this, which may be later turned into 13th amendment to our Constitution if necessary, would persuade some of our Congress ministers not to stick unnecessarily to office with their trembling limbs, deaf ears and dumb wits nor keep unnecessarily searching others in retirement as Rajaji is doing.

Once a state funeral in Delhi is guaranteed to these quarter-dead and half-dead, trembling and shaking Congressmen, we shall have more peace in India.

Besides, putting all our great eggs in one basket at Rajghat would give us another advantage in our socialistic pattern of society. We could cut down annual flower and pilgrimage expenses to the minimum. At the moment to meet our old gods we have to go to the four corners of India and spend a lot of money without any definite benefit from the gods. At Rajghat we can meet the entire Congress pantheon—a secular crowd—round "Phader" Gandhi and hear them all singing "Ramdhun" with dead lips and the maximum expense will be that of a return ticket by the Janata Express.



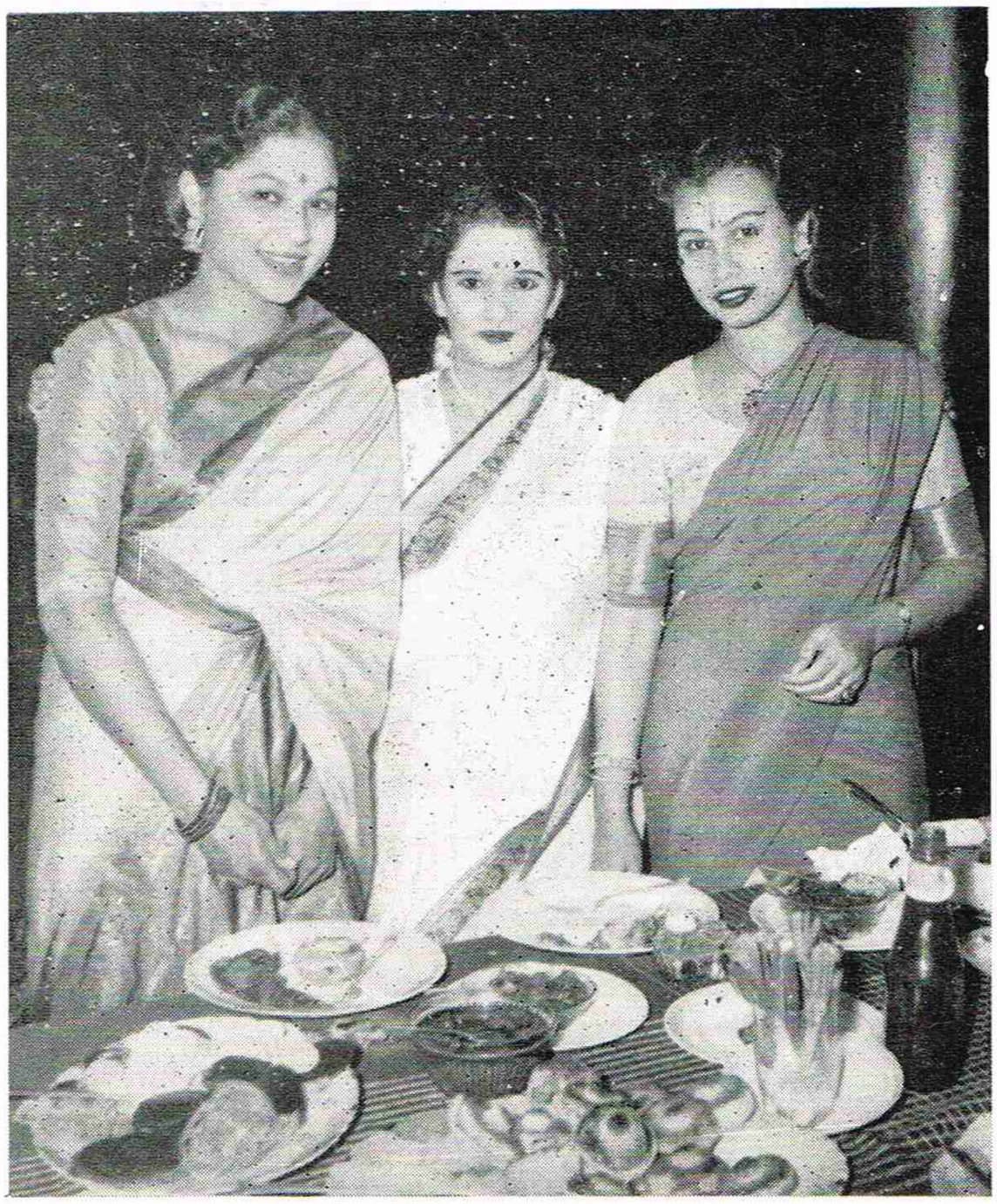
The young ones are always enthusiastic in the early days of their introduction. The corns begin to grow when the novelty of life has worn out. Sabita Chatterjee and Ashim Kumar still enjoy the rainbow of life in "Parivar", produced by Bimal Roy Productions.

In America funerals provide a profitable business and they have professionals called funeral directors who charge certain amounts for arranging certain funerals according to the status of the dead. Funerals in America range from $100 to $50,000 and sometimes more and you can pay for them in advance like insurance premiums. These funeral professionals are reported to have paid 11 million dollars as income tax on their business during 1954-55 year.

Now you cannot make money on our khadi-wrapped corpses. These are dead bodies of chronic bankrupts—bankrupts in humour, intelligence, generosity, humanity and, of course, money. You can't even make a pair of shoes out of their skins as you can't find on them six inches of clear skin without a patch of eczema on it.

This funeral business will have therefore to be strictly a "seva" business, subsidized by the State and run at a loss, like say, our Airlines or Films Division, etc. But this horizontal business will be a complicated job because of the different status of every corpse. In India even corpses can be insulted. The protocol here must be therefore observed as strictly as at the Palam Airport when Congressmen arrive vertically on their feet.

Congress corpses will have to be classified accord-



Birthday at "Girnar"—20th October 1956. Only the beautiful come to wish the beautiful. From left to right: Nirupa Roy, Mrs. Sushila Rani Patel and Mrs. Padmini Arya.

ing to their official status, the number of abuses they earned, the number of fasting stunts they indulged in, the number of lies they told, the number of sadistic reforms they enforced, the number of causes they betrayed, the number of nephews and nieces they obliged etc. As this assessment of status will have to be quickly and correctly done, we shall need a separate Ministry of State Funerals. Because only a special minister—who can finally say whether a particular khadi-clad corpse should be carried on a gun-carriage or in a municipal 'kachra' van, whether it should have members of the army, navy and airforce as mourners or bhangis and mahars, whether it should be burnt or buried, whether it should be within ten feet or ten miles of the "Phader", whether the national flag should be half-mast, quarter-mast or one-hundredth-mast, whether the days of mourning should be three days or three minutes, whether schoolboys should be asked to enjoy a holiday or carry mourning faces around the town, and a thousand other small and big particulars—will be needed.

A well-staffed Ministry is therefore most essential. Once in a while the Ministry will have a headache when they collect a corpse called Krishna Menon without a portfolio. But then the President can always issue an ordinance and prescribe the protocol rites. Such things cannot be strictly constitutional, death itself being an act of destroying a living constitution.

And finally seeing that Delhi is only suitable for accommodating the great dead of history, it is no use violating the sanctity of this ancient graveyard by holding film festivals there and asking a seductive Sitara or a vivacious Vyjayantimala to dance on the chest of the dead.

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE —

THAT the latest "Rasool" of the Muslims is Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India. In Saudi Arabia, the cradle of Islam, Nehru was hailed as "Rasool-al-Salaam" (Prophet of Peace) and the man who called him that is the ruler of both Mecca and Medina, the most holy places of Islam. In Pakistan, Muslims call Nehru "Delhi's double-crossing Kafir". If you see a slight inconsistency between the two titles, remember it is due to the Muslim character we have been pointing out for years.

THAT in Bengal even medical colleges have started taking 'pugrees' from students seeking admissions—the pugree ranging from Rs. 3000|- per admission to Rs. 7500|- per admission—according to the marks of the student—the student with the lowest marks, of course, paying the highest pugree. To complete the disgrace we suggest that they should also sell the degrees and thus make the medical profession a perfect racket. After all, people die because of their sins and not because of doctors and unless doctors are cheaper by the dozen our people won't realize the value of a healthy living.

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THAT before the elections could fall like an avalanche on her, Rajkumari Amrit "Cure" somehow managed to squeeze in one more foreign tour to infect a spot on earth she has not been to before. She has gone to Australia and New Zealand to see the Maoris and to discover the secrets of the Kangaroos. She probably wants to add a pouch to our women and put the baby constantly between the man and his woman under the excuse of family planning. All spinsters are vindictive.

THAT on Gandhi Jayanti Day, our Congressmen performed a new Harijan "tamasha" at Chowpatty. They made the Harijans bring a lot of water from the municipal taps and serve it to the local Congress leaders, ministers and over ten thousand Gandhi capwallahs. B.G. Kher, the ex-Chief Minister of Bombay, said that this would remove untouchability and introduce equality of status between Harijans and caste Hindus. Seeing that the Harijans ran about and sweated for satisfying the thirst of the caste Hindus and the caste Hindus got the water sitting on their haunches—as of old—what was the particular advantage to the Harijans? Had the caste Hindus carried the water and served it to the Harijans, at least some Harijans would have got a few sips of water free in free India. But such functions have always an air of condescension.

Women have a natural talent for balancing things—perhaps due to a flat top. Nutan entertains Balraj Sahni in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a social theme.

THAT C. Subramaniam, Education Minister of Madras, described his State's Adult Literacy movement as "a mere wastage of resources and energy". In Madras any money spent on education must be considered a criminal waste seeing that a man like Kamraj Nadar, a Congressman without education, can become the Chief Minister and a more successful one than C. Rajagopalachari with his half a dozen university degrees. We think that all schools and colleges in the Madras State should be turned into idli-dosai houses after the next elections and the Aiyyars and the Aiyyangars made to cook and serve there for the benefit of Nadars, Naidus and Naickers.

THAT any scandal in Mysore must smell of sandal. That is an advantage Mysore enjoys over Delhi. In Delhi all scandals smell of sewage water and then turn into jaundice. Ex-Chief Minister Hanumanthaiyya left behind a single sandalwood door costing Rs. 10,000 on

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Here is the usual domestic situation in which the man brags and surprises his woman. Shyama and Balraj make another romantic team in "Mai Baap", a social tale produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

his 130-lakh-rupee worth of Vidhan Soudha and burnt the hearts of his enemies. Some of the Opposition members would have taken the door home. Hanumanthaiyya didn't.

THAT there is at least one good Congressman who feels embarrassed with the receptions offered to him and that is our kindly old Dr. Hare Krushna Mahtab. During the last weeks of his Governorship in Bombay, Dr. Mahtab said, "Till now as many as 68 such requests are with me. If I go on attending these receptions, I do not know how I can find time to do anything else." They say he attended 107 receptions before they put him on the Calcutta Mail.

THAT Mrs. Ramabai Deshpande, a member of the Bombay Legislative Council, does not think it enough to stop government servants from marrying a second time but she wants the government to step in and punish all men who "run after many women". Ramabai should really not use the Legislative Council for ventilating her personal grievance in this manner.

THAT a big commercial magnate of Bombay named Seth Kantilal Morarji Desai recently imported into the country two high-powered, streamlined Mercedes-Benz cars from Germany. When Shobhana Samarth requested the Government for a license to import a small Mercedes-Benz, she was told that cars are not allowed to be imported for mere luxury. Seth Kantilal Morarji Desai will probably use the cars for carrying 'Sev-gathias' to Congress election agents in the next elections.

THAT during her recent trip to Delhi, film actress Chitra visited Rajghat with Producer Nanubhai Vakil and placed a wreath on Gandhiji's samadhi. That made the old man turn and open his eyes. He died the next minute. Now, Gandhi won't be born again. He got his Amrapalli at last.

THAT one morning the whole of Pali Hill was worried over the health of their favourite film actress Meena Kumari. Without anything sticking in her throat the girl kept vomiting and Kamal Amrohi having done all the damage he could did not know what to do. Peace returned to Pali Hill three days after and Meena Kumari won't vomit again for some time.

THAT after playing a sultana in several Arab pictures and toying with phoney Arabs of filmdom, film actress Nadira picked up a genuine Saudi Arabian Arab named, Abdul Wahab al Fazli, and married him "in a jiffy" before the goofy guy knew what was happening to him. Poet Nakshab says that Nadira knew he was genuine, the way he smelt from a mile. Well, we have plenty of dhobie ghats. What we want is a genuine slave-trader.

THAT film actress Geeta Bali is already complaining of rheumatic pain in her lower back due to constant

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SHRI RAMTIRTH YOGASHRAM
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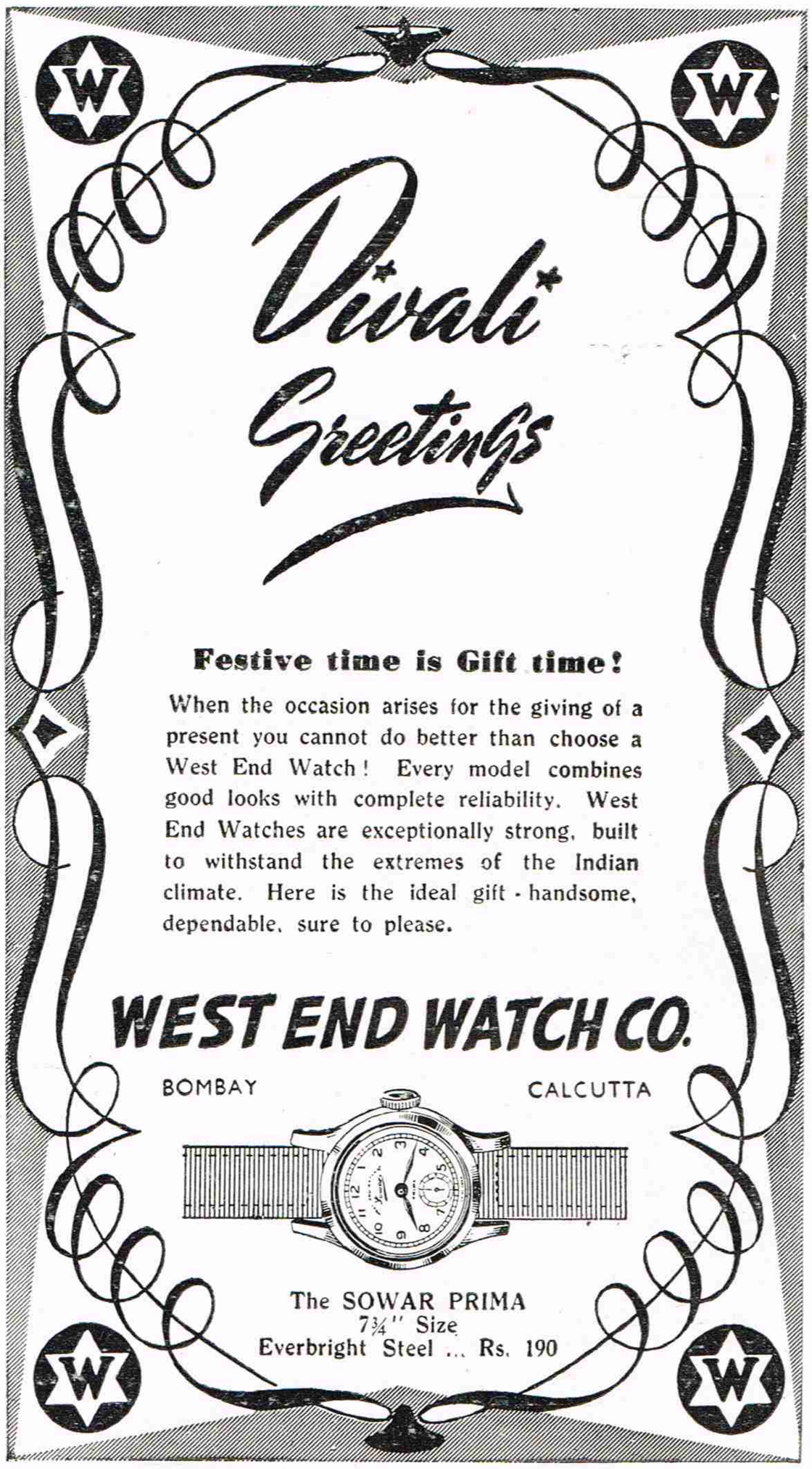
bending whilst touching the feet of the elder Kapoors in her husband's family. It seems that every time the girl goes from one room to another, or even for her personal needs, she has to touch the feet of Papa Prithviraj and Mama Rama and take their blessings. The bright Sikh girl has not touched the holy Granth Saheb so many times yet. Let us see who beats whom.

THAT in the children's section of Balu Keskar's Ministry, a 'noo' one is these days causing a lot of flutter. The pretty, sharp-featured one is significantly named Priti Bala and is featured in "Lighthouse". The man who seems to be rowing her around the "Lighthouse" is, of course, Secretary Mahendra Nath. Let us hope they don't meet with a storm.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Women like to see their lovers in jail. They probably get the same thrill which a cat gets when she sees a rat in the trap. But men don't like to be trapped like rats. They like to be hunted down like lions. Chitra and Suresh tantalize each other in "Neelofar", a thrilling tale of Arab love.

THAT with the number of her flops increasing, film actress Kamini Kaushal has begun to see things more clearly. Says the old actress, "Many people know me only as the actress Kamini Kaushal. But I am as much Uma Sood, wife, mother and housekeeper, as I am Kamini Kaushal, the actress." And good friends told her this again and again in those days when she was gallivanting with her hero Dilip Kumar. It is such a relief when a woman returns to sense.

THAT everything catches these days like a disease. Of all people, film actress Nirupa Roy, who has been playing various goddesses on the screen, now says that she wants to quit the films, become a sanyasin and spend the rest of her days in the Himalayas. That is a terrific confession of hubby Kamal Roy's failure. If Nirupa opens an ashram, she can count on Baburao Patel as her first disciple.

THAT a river that starts from a mountain can never go back to the mountain but a woman after flowing all over the country often goes back to her starting point. One such great woman who is back at her source in Lahore again is film actress Meena Shorey.

THAT Producer-actor Kumar's behaviour towards the Parsis is creating new psychological problems in human behaviour. In the evenings—after 'lighting' hours—Kumar feels like murdering all Parsis. In the mornings, he sends up a prayer for their long life and prosperity. Has it anything to do with wife Pramila's fondness for a Parsi called Shroff?

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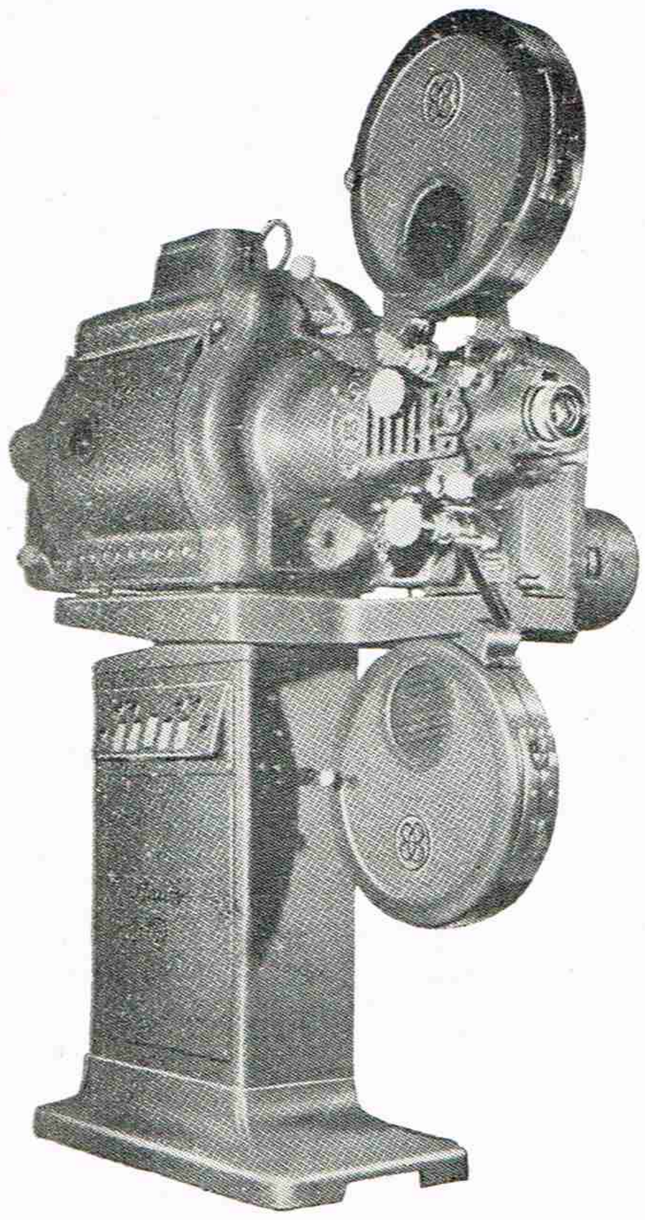

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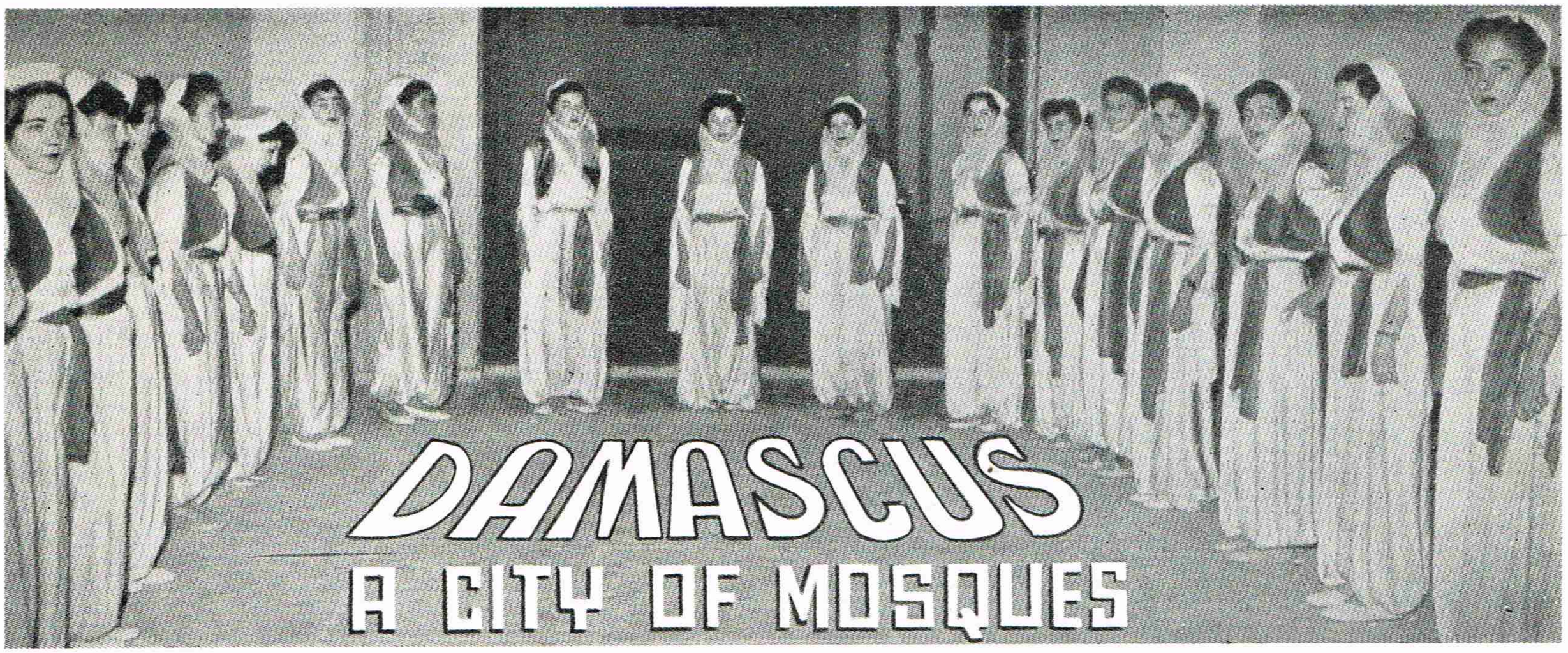


DAMASCUS
A CITY OF MOSQUES

These are not nurses waiting to pick up the ailing. These are Syrian girls dressed for their folk dances. Damascus has hundreds of them and they are worth including in one of our motion pictures. Anyway these are sixteen good excuses—and some of them young and beautiful—for our Asifs and Sadiqs to fly to Damascus with a camera. And if Allah is kind and merciful—as He is to Indian Muslims—they can return home with a harem of their own.

It was in Damascus, the capital of Syria, in the year 712 A.D., that two Hindu virgin princesses —daughters of King Dahir of Sind—who had refused to grace the harem of Sultan Khaled ibn al-Walid, were tied to the Sultan's horses' tails and dragged around the city till they bled to death. They were trophies sent by the Sultan's nephew, Mohammed Ibn Qasim, the first Muslim invader who defeated and killed King Dahir of Sind. India has thus an intimate relationship with Damascus. Its streets have been anointed with the blood of Hindu virgin princesses from India.

Strangely enough Sultan Khaled ibn al-Walid who indulged in this fiendish brutality was responsible for building the famous Omayyad Mosque, perhaps the biggest structure of its kind in the world. The mosque could not have been an expression of his piety or religiousness seeing that his hands were full of the blood of the virgins. It must have therefore been a symbol of his religious fanaticism.

The wicked are deaf and they have ears neither for the curses nor for the blessings of those who suffer. The curse of the virgin princesses seems to have haunted Damascus through centuries and in its 1300 years of history thereafter the citizens of Damascus have paid for this outrage a thousandfold. The last major calamity was on October 18, 1925, when the French bombarded Damascus destroying 25,000 houses. The virgins' curse will continue, say the Syrian mystics, and Damascus will never have peace. Its history will continue to be written in blood and tragedy for centuries to come though all decent-minded people pray for peace and prosperity to this ancient buffer of history.

Damascus, known among the Syrian natives as Esh-Sham, was founded by Uz, the son of Aram and grandson of Shem. On three sides of the city rise the heights of Anti-Lebanon from where flows the Barada River spreading itself in seven branches over the great plain. This river has made the 500-square-mile plain of Damascus extremely fertile. With its wooded background, the city presents a picturesque spectacle for it has numerous mosques and other public buildings—all footprints of its long and glorious and yet tragic history. The Great Mosque, built in the eighth century, with its 120 feet dome is itself a unique foot-on-foot footprint of history having taken the place of a Christian church which in turn had replaced a pagan temple three centuries earlier.

The sacred spot on which this mosque stands today can truly symbolize the long and colourful history of Damascus, for it was on this small spot of earth that man in his various hysterical expressions of religion stood through centuries and prayed to an unseen power calling others infidels and sinners and himself committing fiendish acts of atrocity.

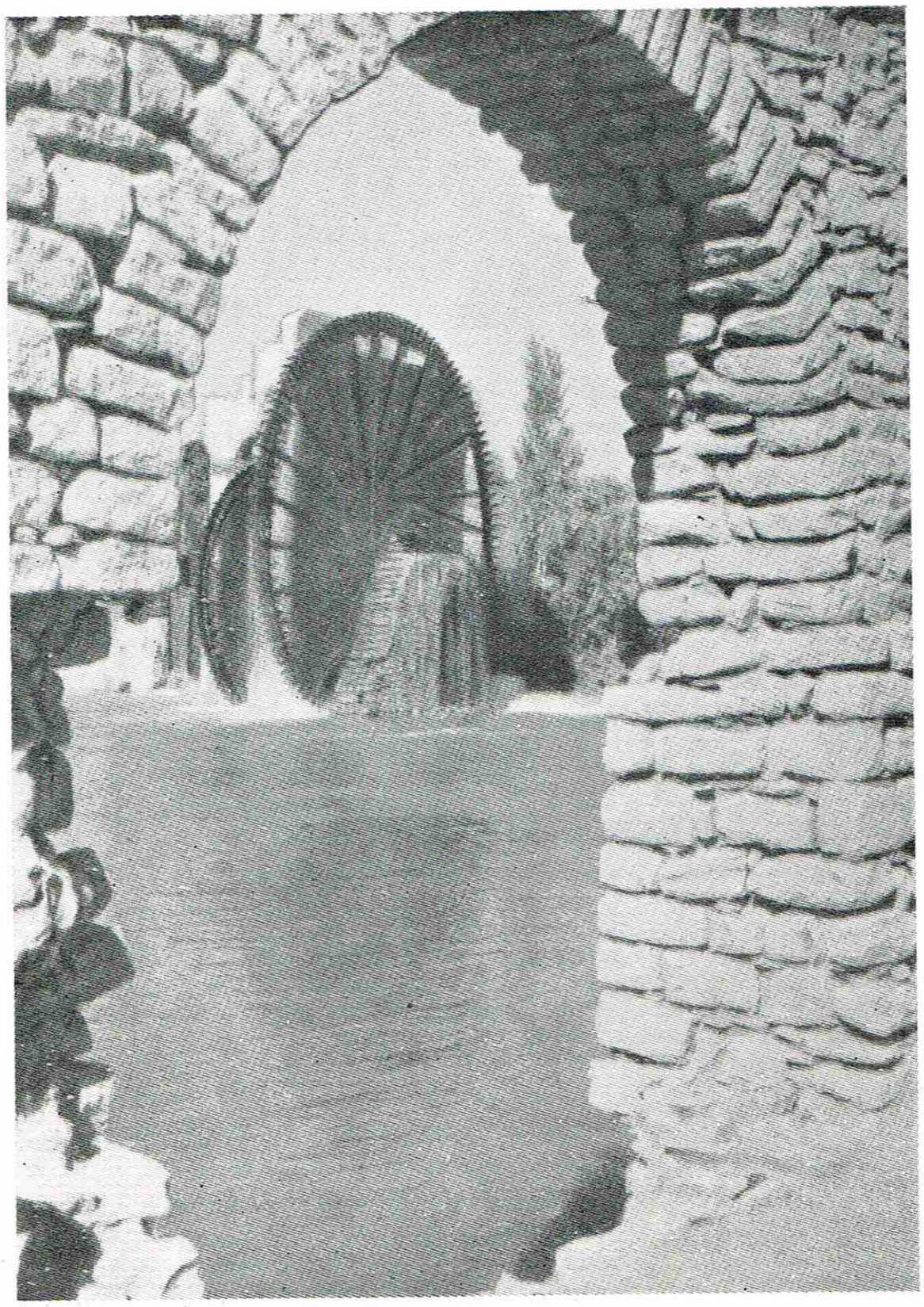
REST HOME OF RACES

The history of Damascus goes back to Papa Abraham of the Jews. Damascus, however, was the scene of two great events in human destiny—the conversion of St. Paul and according to the Muslim tradition, a great decisive moment in the life of Prophet Mahomed, when he resolutely turned his back once for all on the pleasures of the world.

Like a beautiful slave-girl constantly on the auctioneer's block of history, Damascus has passed through the hands of various races: the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Aramaeans, the Assyrians, the Hittites, the Greeks, the Romans and now the Arabs. It was in Damascus and Syria that Islam and Christianity fought their duels of religious fanaticism to exterminate each other, wars which threw up great warriors like Ghazi Salahuddin and Richard, the lion-hearted, into the limelight of history. Salahuddin's Mausoleum in the Azizieh School, north of the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, still excites the faithful to new heights of religious fanaticism.

Syria is perhaps the earliest cradle of human civilization in that part of the world, though the crude and cruel behaviour of its rulers through history does not reveal much of civilization. But if you call it Arab civilization you don't have to apologize much for it, for people in those Arab deserts used entirely a different definition of the word, civilization. They were kinder to the camel.

The Syrians claim to be 6000 years old saying that the Amorites, the first major civilized community in Syria, came from the Arabian Peninsula between 3000 and 2500 B.C. Another Semitic race, the Canaanites, also came about the same time and settled in the southern part of Syria. These Canaanites later came to be known as Phoenicians. Sometime about 1500 B.C., the Aramaeans, a third Semitic race, arrived. Where one Jew goes,



The 'Norias'—Hama's big water-wheels on the Orontes. Syria has plenty of water in some of its towns. It was at these water-wheels that the old Shirins and Farhads met and looked at each other and sighed and squeezed their emotions with love in their hearts and prayers in their eyes. But the elders who had more Begums in their harems than their hearts could ask for did not care for the prayers of the junior lovers.

another arrives, the second knowing that the first one wouldn't be there so long without profits.

At the end of the second millennium before Christ, the first non-Semitic people, the Hurrians arrived. They were soon followed by another non-Semitic race, the Hittites. Then came the Assyrians, the Chaldeans and the Persians. In 333 B.C. came the Macedonian marvel, Alexander, the Great. He defeated the Persian armies and appointed Seleucids as the governor of Syria. Seleucids introduced Hellenic culture, built a number of cities like Latakia, Antioch and Apamea. It was in this Hellenistic age that Syria gave birth to great scholars and philosophers like: Zeno of Sidon—the founder of the Stoic school of philosophy, Antiochus of Ascalon, the academician, Possidonius of Apamea, the philosopher and poets Antipater and Philodemus.

Sixty years before Christ, the Roman legions occupied Syria and did not leave it till four hundred years later the Byzantine emperors took the eastern part of Syria. But throughout these spasms of history, Syria remained Arab at heart and when in 629 A.D. Prophet Mahomed invaded Tabuk on the borders of Syria, the Arabs took to Islam as ducks to water. But it was not till after the death of the Prophet, with Hazrat Abu-bakr guiding the conquests of Islam, that Syria was completely conquered and converted to Islam. It was sometime in 634 A.D. that Khaled ibn al-Walid entered Damascus with his victorious Muslim army.

THE ARAB DYNASTIES

As is usual with Muslim conquests, Damascus, which began with the Omayyads—Walid was an Omayyad—, soon passed through several dynasties of rulers like: the Abbasids, the Tulunids, the Ikhshidids, the Hamdanids, the Mirdasids, the Fatimids, the Seljuqs, the Mamluks and the Ottomans. That interesting Mongol, Genghiz Khan, also had a fling at Syria and Damascus when he and his grandson Hulagu devastated Syria in the thirteenth century.

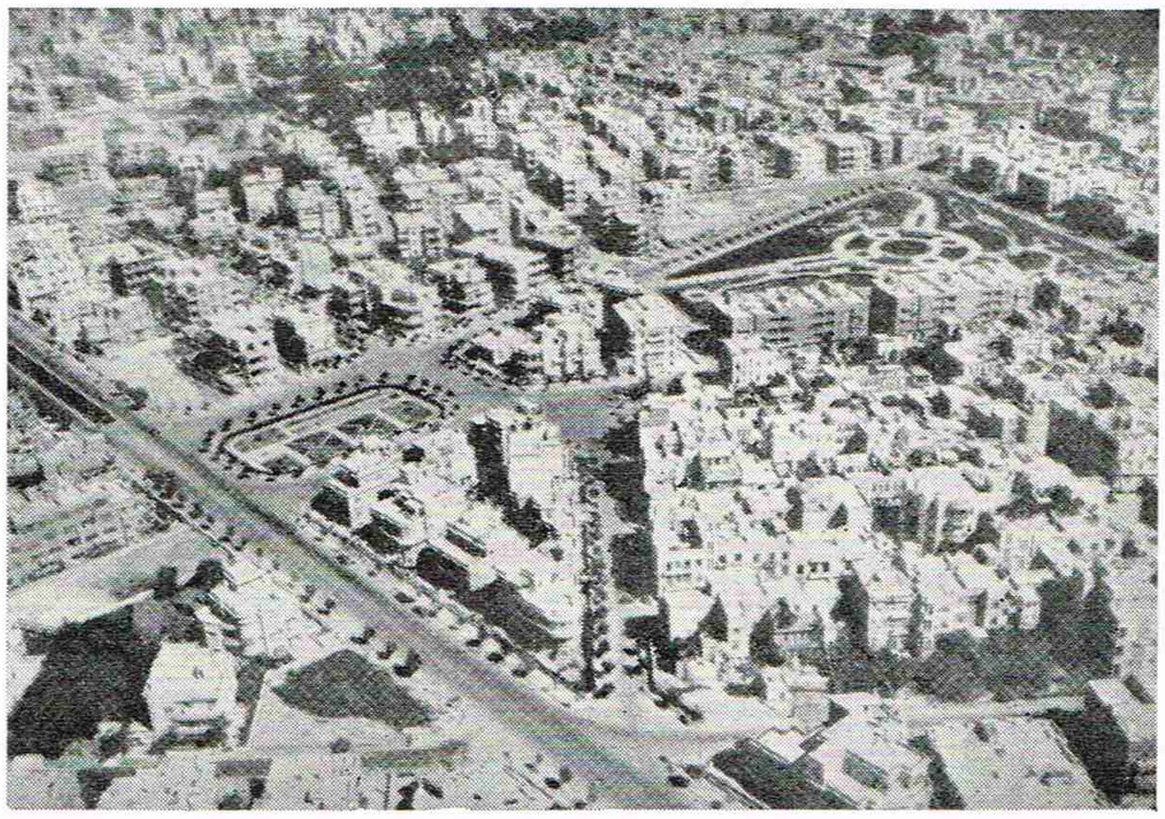
A history of Muslim kings cannot be written in symbols of peace. Damascus therefore passed through centuries of terror and tyranny with murder piling upon murder.

The Turks occupied Damascus till October 1, 1918, on which day General Allenby took over on behalf of the Allies placing Emir Feisal in charge of the Arab troops. A little later, through the usual tricks of politics, the gallant French managed to get the control of Syria. They immortalized their association with Syria by bombarding the city of Damascus on October 18, 1925—apparently to put down a Druse rebellion—and destroying 25,000 Arab houses.

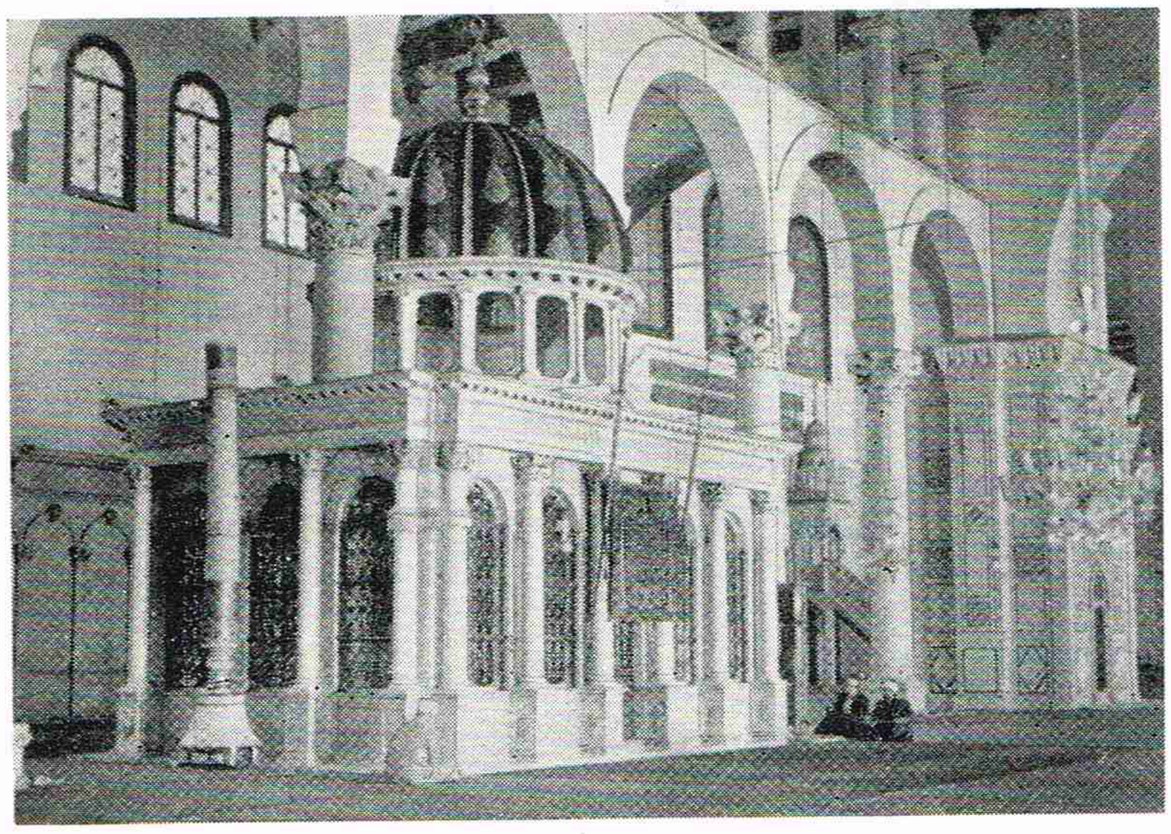
Having gone through some more political chess play, Syria is at last an independent republic today and a member of the United Nations and of the Arab League.

Syria is essentially a Muslim country. Out of its total population of 3,433,626, the Muslims, of various denominations, are 2,834,358. From the rest, 460,452 are Christians, 31,488 are weather-beaten Jews who managed to escape Muslims and Christians both and the rest are Yezides.

Damascus, the capital of Syria, has a population of 372,708 people and it is here that the white-collared workers count the resources of their new republic. Essentially an agricultural country, the bulk of the Syrian people are engaged in soil cultivation and cattle breeding. Syrians grow 805,000 metric tons of wheat, 466,825 tons of barley, 21,824 tons of maize, 24,171 tons of sorgham, 3,628 tons of sesame, 8,617 tons of chickpeas, 30,221 tons of lentils and 62,924 tons of ginned cotton. In 1951 the livestock wealth of the Syrians was: 3,085,000 sheep, 1,433,000 goats, 70,800 camels, 99,600 horses, 483,500 cattle, 244,000 asses, 70,400 mules and 2,820,000 domestic fowls.



An aerial view of Damascus, the capital of Syria and the oldest city of the Arab world. It was from here that Islam sent its warriors to conquer and convert the world. And what a mess they made of the world! They anointed the living with the blood of those who died for their religions and established Islamic empires in different parts of the world.



The Omayyad Mosque of Damascus is an eloquent footprint of Islamic history of intolerance of other faiths. It is built on the site of a Christian church and you can see within it the mausoleum of St. John, the Baptist, probably kept as a souvenir of conquest.

Syria exports wool, textiles, vegetable products, live animals and animal produce and buys fine textiles, better quality vegetable products, mineral products, machinery, metals and all other necessities of civilized life.

If one does not care for mosques and Muslims and their wars and passions, there is nothing to see in Damascus. But to one who is interested in the bloodstained history of Islam, Damascus is a living museum of numerous milestones of history.

SALADIN'S TOMB

The Great Mosque, of course, catches the eye first. It is immense, with a great court and a portico of yellow marble, big as a piazza. The general effect from colours is lovely—the Imam's niches, doors, pulpit, worked in marble and mother-of-pearl, and old blue tiles outside. And in Meidan, there is the Gate of God through which pass the pilgrims (Hajis) on their way to Mecca.

The Mamluks and the Ottomans built mosques after mosques in Damascus and at places it looks as if the faithful lived in the mosques and never went home to their begums. The Sinan Pasha Mosque in Damascus is another one that attracts attention because of its exquisite porcelain and carved wood work.

The Al-Azem Palace in Damascus built by Assad Pasha al-Azem, a Hama notable and a governor of Damascus, consists of two parts, the Haramlik, a place reserved for the governor's wives and Salamlik for public life. Swimming pools, marble, carved wood, porcelain, Arabic verses, Koranic texts, mosaic and other Arab symbols are found in plenty in this luxuriously built palace.

Then there is the Mausoleum of Ghazi Salahuddin (Saladin) decorated with the usual geometrical patterns and Koranic texts in Kufic script. It all looks boring and uniform till a man knows the history of Saladin and his gallant fight with the Christians. Then the symbols in the Kufic script come to life and you see once again a page of history burning with the usual religious fanaticism of Islam and if you are imaginative enough you can also hear the dreaded battlecry of "Allah-ho-Akbar" as the great Saladin rode on his white Arab charger to meet the challenge of Richard of England.

And in this centre of Muslim fanaticism stands the church of St. Paul, near the Kisan Gate. Legend says that St. Paul came to Damascus through the Kisan Gate and when pursued by the enemies of Christianity, the apostle was led by his friends along the "street which is straight" and then let down in a basket through the fortifications of Damascus in the place where the Kisan Gate now stands and where a church named St. Paul's Church, was built only in 1939 when the French ruled Syria. Let us hope it is not demolished soon now that the Arabs rule Syria again.

Damascus has thus been a cockpit of religion in which every mosque has stones of three faiths: the pagan, the Christian and the Islamic.

Damascus will continue to be a cockpit of Islamic history because it is surrounded by ambitious Arabs who still believe in tyranny and slavery. And the curse of the virgins will haunt this historic city through centuries to come.

Ghazi Salahuddin lies here in Damascus—no more a warrior of Islam, no more an enemy of Christianity. For dust has no religion except the smell of divinity. But when he lived the brave and gallant Salahuddin drew his sword only to plough the soil of several countries and in the furrows sow the seed of Islam.

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NEW BUDDHAS

Phumiphon Aduldet, the 29-year-old King of Thailand, became a temporary Buddhist priest for a fortnight in October, probably to get a feel of what a monk's life is like.

Donning saffron robes and carrying a clean-shaven head, the young King walked through the streets of Bangkok with a bowl in hand to receive rice and alms from his people.

Facing voluntary hardships is bound to make the King more human. Even a fortnight's trial is an experience worth having.

ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY

At a special conference held in Geneva recently, the United Nations drafted a new Slavery Convention which has as its aim the abolition of slavery all over the world.

Some of the facts that emerged from this Conference are truly shocking. How easily does a human being descend to the bestial level in order to satisfy his greed and lust! According to the 110-page report submitted by Mr. C. W. Greenidge, the London director of the Anti-Slavery Society, there are half a million chattel slaves in Arabia, 3,000,000 girls in Asia sold into drudgery and prostitution and 6,000,000 serfs in Peru and Ecuador.

Oil has brought more wealth and consequently more sin into Saudi Arabia where slavery has increased in the last few years. In old times slaves were bought for prices ranging from Rs. 130 to Rs. 910. Today young girls are sold for as much Rs. 5200. Slaves who try to escape from their masters are beheaded. In some parts of Saudi Arabia, slaves are used as traveller's cheques and sold when their owners want money. Rape of women, mutilation of menfolk to convert them to eunuchs, etc., are common features of this disgusting business.

Saudi Arabia has thus become the cradle of slavery where slavery is considered to be legal and slaves bred like cattle from generation to generation.

FREE KISSING

Mr. Justice Gajendragadkar of the Bombay High Court, quashed the order of conviction passed on a youth and a girl of Ahmedabad by a First Class Judicial Magistrate for "kissing in a public place", holding that their action was not obscene and acquitted both the accused.

Though the Magistrate had fined the boy Rs. 200 and admonished the girl for kissing each other in a public park, the Sessions Judge did not agree with this decision and referred the matter to the High Court. The Sessions Judge pointed out in his reference that kissing in public was not prohibited by law in India. It was up to the High Court to determine whether their act of kissing amounted to an obscene act under Section 294 of the Indian Penal Code.

Some women have a rare depth in their eyes and they take you to their hearts by a long, winding way. It takes time to reach their hearts but once you get there you cannot escape easily. Here is an intense woman, Asha Tikku, a Kashmiri girl. Meet her in "Alamara", a costume romance.

His Lordship said, "It is true that it is not easy to define an obscene act. But it is not so difficult to determine in reference to any given act whether it is obscene or not."

The kissing vogue in free India has already become popular at Palam airport, New Delhi, thanks to Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Vijaylakshmi Pandit, etc.

COMMUNISM vs CONGRESS

The oft-quoted saying of Lenin, "In a country filled with illiterates, a Communist society cannot be built", seems to have goaded the Chinese Government into starting an all-out literacy drive to claim a part of the existing 400 million illiterates for this purpose.

The man chosen to head this campaign is Chen Yi, a squat marshal and an important individual in the Red hierarchy. He is supposed to do the job in seven years though he boasted publicly and said that he would complete this herculean task in just five years. Peking recently announced that the total circulation of all newspapers and magazines in China is just 28 million. A door-to-door campaign to enrol illiterates in night schools has begun.

The Chinese at least realize the value of literacy in building up a nation. While we encourage illiteracy in the hope that illiterate voters will keep the Congress in permanent power.

THE CLOVEN FOOT

Even in the wonderful Soviet "paradise" there are quite a few greedy food merchants who amass big fortunes by swindling customers. At least that is what "Izvestia", Soviet Government's newspaper, would have us believe.

One ingenious shopkeeper stuffed his sausages with water and starch and sold them at regular prices. This man who earned 600 roubles monthly was found by the police with 37 bank books and a fortune of 480,000 roubles in the bank. He was also in possession of 100,000 roubles cash, a lot of gold and a chest filled with diamonds. What happened to him is not known.

Smug satisfaction! Satisfied women look like old athletes, heavy in mind and muscle. Let us see what Nigar Sultana is doing with the Cross round her neck in "Commander", a thrilling adventure yarn.

Soviet crime has also a spectacular quality about it. But punishment for it is often unspectacular.

HIS SECOND MISTAKE

Prince Sadruddin, the 25-year-old son of the Aga Khan, is reported to have eloped with Nina Dyer, a one-time London model, recently divorced by Baron Heinrich von Thyssen.

Prince Sadruddin who studies economics at Harvard University in U.S. had come to France for a holiday where he met Nina and fell in love with her.

It seems the Aga Khan's sons are better qualified to study the anatomy of female bipeds, than waste time in economics.

OUR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

Muslim housewives of Pakistan are fast becoming good litigants. On an average, three housewives sue their husbands daily for proper maintenance before a special magistrate of Karachi. During the last one month, 90 housewives sued their husbands for maintenance while 10 took divorce through court.

Evidently divorce has come into fashion in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the right of the Muslim male to put four women into his bed seems to have disappeared.

SHE BROKER

Women have invaded a hundred different fields of life—from law to laboratories, from pulpits to politics—ever since they left the cloisters of their homes to seek equality with men. Now we are told that Mrs. Nellie Neale of Birmingham wants to be admitted as a

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Proud women need loud men to debunk them. Some women think that Mama Eve left behind the mammary glands to no one else but to them and they push them like a push-cart in front all the time. Bina Rai plays a proud role and faces an intriguing situation with Sheikh Mukhtar in "Changez Khan", a costume thriller.

broker in Birmingham's Stock Exchange.

This is the first application of its kind for no woman had fancied herself for a broker's job so far. The Association of Stock Exchanges has not yet come to a decision about admitting Mrs. Neale.

CLASSIFYING BLOOD

A committee of South African medical experts has recommended to the Medical and Dental Council of Johannesburg that blood for transfusion purposes should be labelled "black" and "white".

Blood from non-whites should bear a black label to prevent its being used for white patients. Apartheid has given human blood a variety of hues, it seems.

RESHAPING FEMALES

Surprise police raids were made on 60 beauty parlours in Paris in September because the Ministry of Health and the French Medical Council alleged that the parlours were infringing medical rules and practising medicine illegally.

Some of the parlours administer serums and give electrical treatment and massage to slim down their clients—activities which can only be carried out legally by doctors. The beauty specialists said that they would willingly take doctors on their staff but the Medical Council didn't allow them to do so.

Under the excuse of regaining beauty, the ever-gullible females, it seems, are prepared to face new health risks.

INFECTED THERMOMETER

Quite a few British hospitals are responsible for spreading germs among their patients through careless use of thermometers, according to a leading article in "The Lancet". The thermometers were not properly disinfected and in two instances where 109 thermometers were tested, it was found that even after keeping them in a disinfecting solution for four hours, 63 were found to be contaminated. Some germs, no doubt, are harmless while others cause infection.

If this is the condition of some British hospitals, we shudder to think what it must be like in our 'deshi' hospitals!

OF MICE AND WOMEN

The old superstition tracing abnormalities in newborn children to emotional shocks suffered by pregnant women has now been found to have a scientific basis. Drs. Lyon P. Strean and Lyndon A. Peer studied 228 cases of cleft palate at Newark's Hospital of St. Barnabas, 40% of the cases being first-born children and discovered that 23% of the mothers had been ill during pregnancy while 68% had been subjected to serious emotional disturbances. The extra hydrocortisone secreted by the adrenal glands under these circumstances either checks the formation of connective tissue between the two sides of the palate or dissolves the tissue already formed.

The doctors conducted experiments on female mice in different stages of gestation to prove their theory.

DOLL DEVILS

A group of New York psychoanalysts in a study of homosexuals found that men who become homosexuals played with dolls instead of playing baseball when they were youngsters. They were also sissies who liked to wear girls' clothes and sport long curls as children. Most of them were inclined to be hostile to their fathers.

The findings were reported to the American Psychiatric Association.

SAVING SUICIDE

For the first time, a fluid exchange method called "peritoneal dialysis" used originally in case of kidney trouble, was tried successfully on a 30-year-old patient who had taken an overdose of barbiturate sleeping pills with milk.

After 30 hours of "peritoneal dialysis" the patient regained partial consciousness and within a week was nearing normal.

SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENS

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HYPNOTISED AND CUT

At a meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago, a report on the first successful lung operation on a hypnotised person was read out.

A 25-year-old woman was hypnotised for 2½ hours and operated for a lung tumour at a hospital in Los Angeles. A week later she left the hospital in "an excellent condition". So far hypnotism had been used for stomach surgery, appendix removal, breast surgery and amputations.

NEW EARS

At the tenth biennial Congress of the International College of Surgeons held in Chicago recently, Dr. Lyndon A. Peer reported that his clinic at Newark, New Jersey had created ears from a patient's rib cartilage and abdominal skin. The substitute ear was grafted on patients born with only one or no ears. Dr. Peer suggests that the ear-making process should start when the child is 3½ years.

COMING NEARER

Soviet professor Georgi Pokrovsky, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Major-General in the engineering service of the Soviet Union and an authority on the physics of explosion, has evolved an ambitious plan to connect the Himalayas with Soviet Russia and China by means of an atom-driven railway.

Envisaging this "realistic fantasy" Professor Pokrovsky said in an article, "The engines of the future will not require large quantities of fuel and hence could make long non-stop runs at high speed". The railway would link Frunze in Soviet Kirgizia in the south of the Soviet Union, through the Chinese province of Sinkiang with India and would run as far as New Delhi.

Well, the atom has already achieved a great deal and may be in the hands of our cold, calculating 'Comrades', this railway may even become a reality. To us, it seems like a frightful fantasy!

IN SUNLESS COUNTRY

Leslie Gardner of Bristol completed the first house in England which will be heated by solar energy. The sun's rays supply all the heat necessary for cooking, bathing and heating purposes at roughly 1|8th the cost of normal electricity.

The prototype 10-room house cost Gardner $14,000. The sun's heat is stored in the ceiling by a glass contrivance.

In India, the land of bright sunshine, Government had to stop making solar cookers as there was not sufficient demand for them. How can we think of building such houses then?

It is a crossword puzzle seeing that Bina Rai's face reveals nothing but adenoids and Ashok Kumar looks a cross between a butler and a bandmaster. The apple seems to be genuine and that might turn Ashok into a snake. But let us not guess till we see the stuff called, "Talaash". Vishram Bedekar, who is directing the picture, is known for giving surprises.

REJUVENATING RUB

Dr. John M. Cross, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Rutgers College of Pharmacy, Newark, predicted that a day might soon come when women would wear not only mink but also rub it into their skin as a cosmetic, after making 12 characterization tests on gray-white mink suet. The oil has some hormone-like material.

Ranch-grown minks are fed on a rich diet of ground beef, vitamins and cod liver oil during the first six months of their life and that is why they yield this fat. A two-pound mink yields 4 to 5 ounces of fat and Dr. Cross estimates that at least 350 tons of oil can be got from mink fat in U.S. The oil can be used as a cosmetic base.

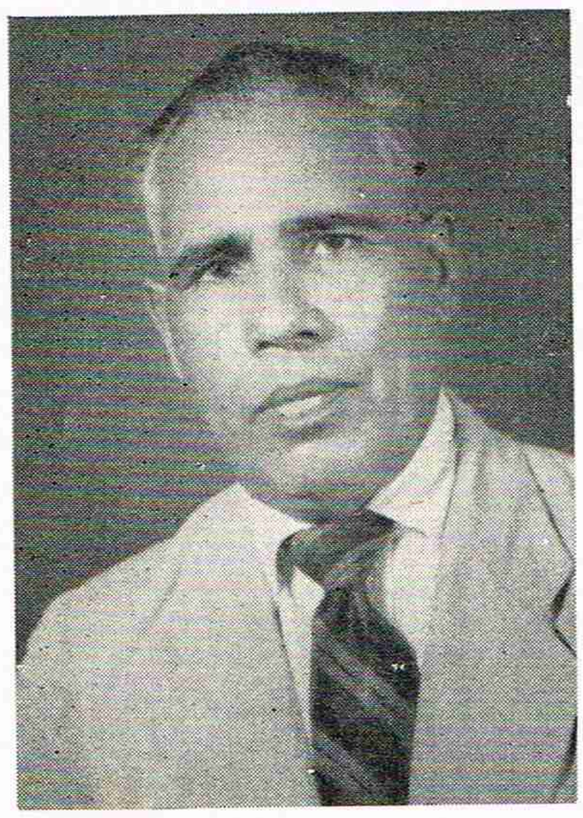
DONALD DOES IT

Donald Campbell, the British water speed king, broke his own world record with an official speed of 225 miles per hour. In November 1955, Donald had created a record of 216.02 m.p.h. in his jet-propelled Bluebird on Lake Mead, Nevada.

COW-DUNG GAS

The cow-dung gas plant installed at Nangloi, near Delhi, by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, is attracting the attention of many villagers these days.

Simple in design, the principle made use of in this plant is the gas collected from the fermentation of cow-dung being carried in a tube to a burner, on which cooking is done. One hundred pounds of cow-dung daily mixed with an equal quantity of water, produce about 100 cubic feet of gas per day. Daily feeding of dung is required while the used dung is collected in shallow trenches built around the plant and can be used in the fields.



Good, old Gobind Ram Sethi, almost an ancient film director, still continues to make news. The other day his documentary, "Education For Life" won the All-India Certificate of Merit at the recent State Film Awards ceremony at New Delhi.

AUTOMATIC SNAP

At the recent International Photo and Cine Exhibition held in Cologne, participated by 494 firms from France, U.S., Britain, Japan, etc., the "human eye" camera manufactured by a leading German company, was considered to be one of the best exhibits.

The camera is automatically coupled to an exposure meter. The photographer has to choose his aperture and the camera automatically sets the correct exposure time.

This looks like good spoon-feeding for some of our amateur photo-enthusiasts.

QUICK WORK

An electronic printer that translates 4000 coded signals a second and prints as many as 40 different documents in a minute has been developed by the Radio Corporation of America. Known as the "Bizmac", the new printer is said to be the fastest and the most versatile composing and printing equipment ever developed.

Plans for its commercial production have not been made yet.

SEEING THE LIAR

The Bell Telephone Laboratories had their first successful trials of the two-way "Picturephone", in which a small television camera attached to the phone registers the caller's face.

Though the Picturephone took two years to develop, the apparatus looks apparently simple. The Picturephone can be installed in any home by merely adding one line. The chief obstacle in its development was to hold the picture at the camera until it could be broken down into an electrical message and sent dot by dot through the electrical confines of a pair of simple wires.

The Picturephone units are still being perfected for even better results.

KICKING ROBOTS

Footballers in U.S. have begun to use radio devices to help them to play the game better. Football coach, Paul Brown, said that by means of an ultra high frequency device he can transmit from a spectator's bench instructions to the players in whose helmets is fitted a miniature walkie-talkie outfit.

The footballers' radio weighs less than a pound and is about

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2½ inches in diameter. It is fastened to the top of the helmet and a small earphone is attached alongside the left earguard.

In a couple of years it is possible that every professional team will have its own wave length to use this device.

QUICK DEATH

In the present atomic age, man seems to be using all his intelligence only to devise new weapons that can transport one to heaven with atomic swiftness. A recent invention of U.S. is the supersonic gatling gun called the Vulcan. The Vulcan, a 20-mm cannon, spews 8000 shells a minute as it has 6 rotating barrels that fire in succession. This quick-killing gun is a 20th century model of the one used by Richard J. Gatling in the Spanish-American War in 1862.

NO BURIAL SPACE

Cremation is becoming more and more popular in Britain these days—may be because it is an effective and quicker way of disposing of the dead.

In 1955 one corpse in four was burnt for a total of 141,000 cremations. In 1939 there were 19,000 cremations and in 1945, 43,000.

It seems that buried Englishmen are no longer turning into coal as before.

BLIND NAVIGATION

Oceanographers experimenting in the Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory, Yale, have found out interesting facts about fish life that can be utilized for commercial purposes. There is a great concentration of animal life between 400 and 600 feet deep over all the oceans of the world.

Daniel Merriman, the Laboratory's director, says that "there is much evidence to show that fish use sound waves as radar—to detect the presence or absence of obstacles in their path. For example, they can pick up and escape through a hole in a confining net in murky water where they can't possibly see the aperture".

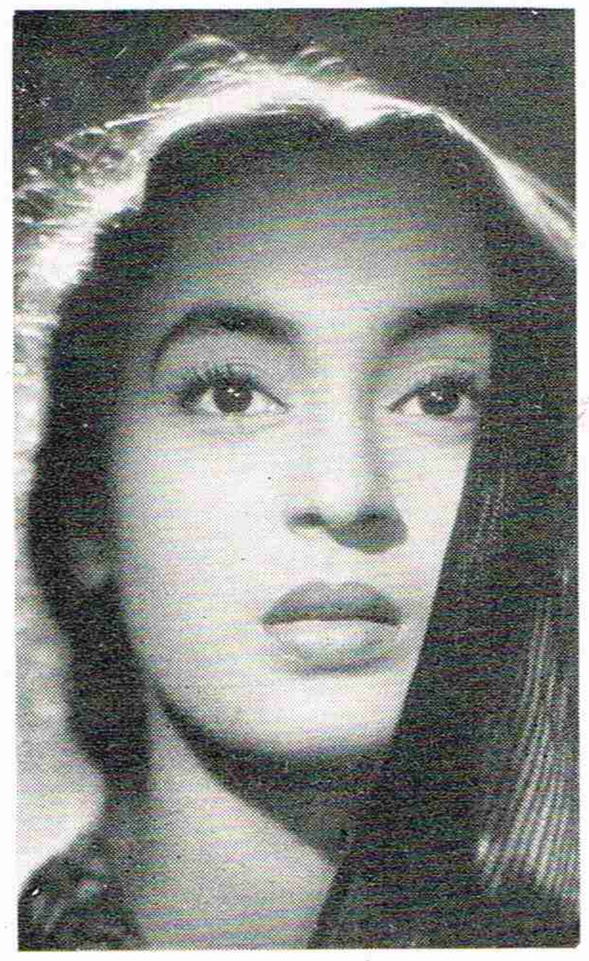
The fish is evidently a slippery customer!

NOT BIRD-FOOD

According to the National Geographic Society, young birds are gourmands with a surprisingly voracious appetite. During its period of fastest growth, a young feathered bird eats more than its own weight daily. For instance a black tern weighing 31 grams ate 48 grams of earthworms in a single day.

Researchers in Yosemite National Park found 3000 ants in the stomach and 500 mosquitoes in a nighthawk's tummy, in addition to weed seeds.

The average man weighing 150 pounds eats only 1531 pounds of foodstuffs every year. Only a hefty Punjabi can probably compete with a bird in the matter of a hearty appetite.



If the picture is named after her, it has been rightly done, for Nutan is still a rare treasure. Meet this sensitive beauty in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a romantic tale.

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PEROXIDE PROPULSION

Britain's latest experimental submarine "Explorer" is said to be the first vessel using hydrogen peroxide as fuel. The peroxide propulsion system is advantageous because no exhaust bubbles reach the surface.

When hydrogen peroxide breaks up, it releases heat while the resulting free oxygen combines with fuel, such as diesel oil, to produce both steam and carbon dioxide to drive the turbine. The Germans had actually constructed five peroxide-powered submarines during World War II but didn't put them into use.

So Hydrogen peroxide is no longer a monopoly of synthetic blondes!

4800 FLEW UP

A U.S. Air Force Survey made recently revealed that more than 4800 people were killed as a result of accidents involving U.S. Air Force planes during the last five years. The dead included 2100 qualified pilots.

And yet the U.S. Air Force has established a new safety record in flying as compared to the previous years. In 1955 there were only 17 accidents for every 100,000 hours flown. In 1922 the rate was 506 accidents for every 100,000 hours.

MOON-BOUND

The U.S. Bell X-2 rocket plane established a record as the world's fastest aircraft reaching an altitude of 126,000 feet, in the second week of September. The previous record for this type of flying was set by Bell X-I-A in 1954 when it touched an altitude of 90,000 feet or 17 miles.

Tragically enough just when the U.S. Air Force was gloating over its superb feat, the needle-nosed Bell X-2 rocket plane crashed in a desert near the Edwards Air Force Base in California killing Captain Milburn G. Apt on September 27. The X-2 plane was released by a B-50 bomber at an altitude of 30,000 feet. Within two minutes the plane crashed.

The Bell X-2 rocket plane thus had a meteoric short-lived glory.

FROZEN GUYS

The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory picked up radio waves from Mars for the first time during the second week of September when Mars was at its nearest point to the earth. Earlier this year the same research team detected radio radiation from Venus.

From the nature of the radio waves, the scientists believe that the average temperature of Mars is slightly lower than the freezing point of water. Perhaps the Martians are not as warlike as we imagine them to be, with a shivering temperature enveloping them.

TREASURE OF ISRAEL

An expedition led by Dr. James B. Pritchard from the University of Pennsylvania Museum discovered the Biblical city of Gibeon near el-Jib, eight miles north of Jerusalem.

Three storage jars inscribed in the Hebrew script with the address of their owner, gave the clue to the identification of el-Jib as the site of Gibeon. The city covered an area of 16 acres, surrounded by a 10 feet wide wall going up to 26 feet at some points.

Gibeon has been mentioned 43 times in the Old Testament and described as "one of the royal cities". It is believed that the city was built before 1200 B.C. and reached its glory from 800 to 600 B.C.

Just a little peeved because he has been late in coming. In youth women become more suspicious than in later years. Just as they wait with their nails drawn in they know that there are other cats also waiting to catch the poor mouse. The thought makes them sad and impatient. Let us see for whom is Ameeta waiting so anxiously in "Dekh Kabira Roya", a social theme produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

SHANTARAM vs JAYASHREE

Bombay, October 4.

The contempt proceedings filed by Producer Shantaram Rajaram Vankudre against his second wife, Jayashree, and Badri Kachwalla and Kesari Desai, publisher and manager respectively of a Gujarati weekly called, "Paras", came up for hearing before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Tendolkar at the Bombay High Court.

In the case of Jayashree, Their Lordship found that there was nothing on the record to suggest that the conversation she had with Kachwalla and Desai was with a view that what she said would be published and therefore no case for contempt had been made out against her.

With regard to Desai, who was merely a business manager and had nothing to do with the editorial side of the paper, Their Lordships accepted his unqualified apology.

With regard to Kachwalla, Their Lordships said that the position was different and much more serious. He had taken advantage of the confidence placed in him by Jayashree to give cheap publicity to a woman's private affairs, knowing that a petition for divorce was pending and such publication was bound to prejudicially affect the trial of the petitioner.

But as Kachwalla had tendered an unconditional apology and agreed to pay the costs of the petitioner and publish the said apology in his paper of October 10, Their Lordships thought it was not necessary to pass any more severe order against him.

DEATH SENTENCE CONFIRMED

Lucknow, September 20.

Mr. Justice Randhir Singh and Mr. Justice A. N. Mulla, constituting a division bench of the Allahabad High Court, dismissed the appeal filed by K. K. Trivedi, who had been convicted and sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge of Lucknow on the charge of having murdered Mr. G. S. Bajpai, the manager of the Sudarshan Cinema, Lucknow, in July 1955.

K. K. Trivedi, the lessee of a restaurant in the premises of the Sudarshan Cinema, was in arrears of rent and therefore ousted by G. S. Bajpai. Furious at this treatment, Trivedi on July 8, 1955, is alleged to have attacked Bajpai and Om Prakash, the cinema's publicity man, when the latter were going in a rickshaw. Bajpai later died at the hospital while Om Prakash survived. Trivedi surrendered himself before a magistrate at Unnao and was brought to Lucknow. The Sessions Judge of Lucknow, Mr. Ambika Prasad Srivastava, convicted and sentenced to death Trivedi but acquitted B. K. Johri, Trivedi's alleged accomplice.

In dismissing the appeal, Their Lordships held that there were no exonerating circumstances which might induce them to pass the lesser sentence of transportation for life. They, therefore, upheld the conviction and sentence of death.

HER "NOO" MIKE

New York, September 30.

Brunette actress, Elizabeth Taylor, 24, now separated from Hubby-actor Michael Wilding, was seen moving about with Producer Michael Todd, arm in arm. When a columnist asked her about Mike Todd, Liz replied, "I love Mike, I love him passionately." So did grandma-actress Marlene Dietrich some time ago who is reported to have said about Todd, "I love to cook for Mike. I love to cook him sauerkraut." Sauerkraut, however, doesn't need much cooking.

Friends in the know of the Taylor-Wilding break-up however said, "It isn't the Todd romance that hurt Wilding. It's the one before it", meaning perhaps the Victor Mature hotel incident.

Liz seems to believe in swift loyalties with a hidden allergy for 'Mikes'.

HIGH COURT LICENSE

Hyderabad, September 19.

A division bench of the Hyderabad High Court, consisting of Mr. Justice Siadat Ali Khan and Mr. Justice Kumarayya, dismissed two State appeals and upheld the orders of the Tandur Munsif Magistrate acquitting two persons prosecuted for smoking in a cinema hall.

Their Lordships observed that they could not interfere with the orders of acquittal as the police reports did not bring out "the ingredients of the offence", nor was it proved that any person had complained of the act being a nuisance as required by Section 290 I.P.C.

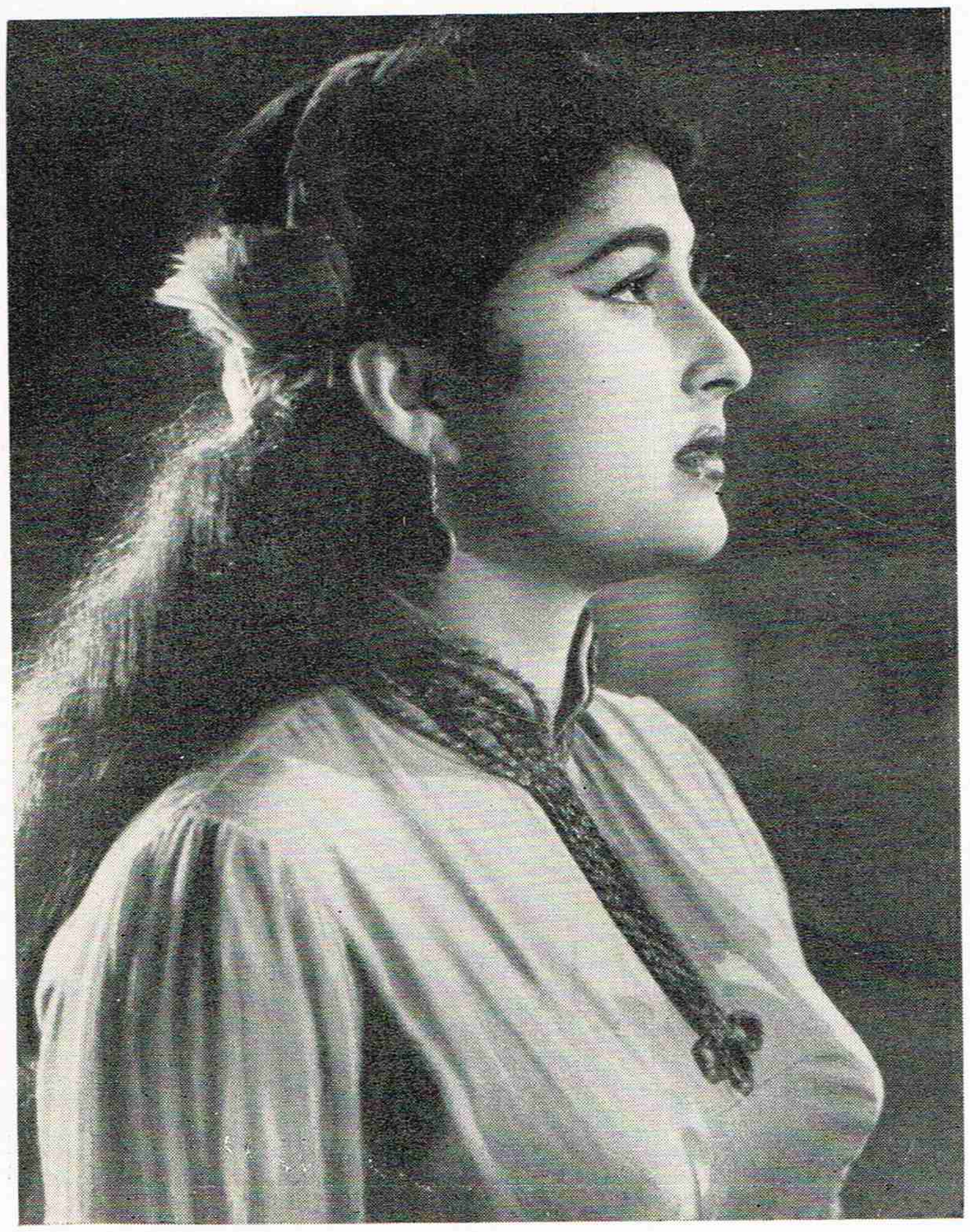
With this ruling, it becomes evident that smoking in a cinema hall is neither an offence nor a public nuisance unless someone lodges a complaint.

STAR DUST

Hollywood, September 21.

Petite actress Jean Simmons delivered her first child, a 7-pound daughter, at a luxurious maternity hospital in Hollywood. Hubby Stewart Granger flew all the way from Rome, where he was making a picture, to see their joint production.

Said the delighted Jean, "We're quite thrilled, quite



Age often walks before a woman and though, sometimes, the face stands time and weather better, the rest of the woman reveals an old story. Watch Bina Rai trying to revive old memories in "Changez Khan", a costume tale of olden days.

thrilled. We're calling her Tracy. We chose the name six months ago. We had to cover ourselves for a boy or a girl."

BALU'S BUNDLE

New Delhi. September 21.

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, speaking at New Delhi on the occasion of the Film Award-giving ceremony on September 20, announced that the Government of India had decided to constitute a National Film Board and a Film Finance Corporation to help the development of the motion picture industry. Legislation for this purpose would be introduced at the next session of Parliament.

Government had rejected an earlier proposal for such a Corporation because of lack of funds but later realized the importance of giving State aid to an important industry with tremendous educative and entertainment values. Dr. Keskar added that the initial capital of the Film Finance Corporation would be one crore of rupees.

Government is used to losing crores of rupees in its multi-purpose projects like the Bhakra-Nangal or Damodar Valley. A crore more cannot make much difference in the popular game of national wastage.

COMMON ENOUGH

London, September 22.

British actress Sally Ann Howes engaged to Baron Nahum, a royal photographer, got a premonition suddenly one night that her fiance was dying. She rushed to his bedside five minutes too late to find him dead after a heart attack.

BLACK AND WHITE

Bombay, September 15.

Producer-director K. Amarnath, Rekhchand Pechua and Achhut Desai—two business magnates—were arrested by the prohibition police following a surprise raid in a flat at "Sagar Mandir" on the night of September 14. They were celebrating the release of Amarnath's new picture "Naya Andaz".

The police said that Desai had a permit, Amarnath's permit had expired while Rekhchand did not possess a permit at all. Three tumblers containing liquor and a bottle of 'Black And White' whiskey was found.

All the three persons were released on bail.

THRILLED BY KISSES

Hollywood, October 1.

Charming Hollywood actress Kim Novak who created quite a flutter in Europe where she had gone to make a picture, returned to Hollywood with some new conquests. Kim said that she loved having her hands kissed by different Counts, the foremost amongst them being Count Bandini.

Mac Krim, Kim's admirer, was taken aback with Kim's changed loyalties. It seems too true to say that a woman never knows her mind.

Kim Novak was recently starred in "Picnic" with William Holden.

PRUDISH CONGRESSMEN

Bombay, September 22.

The Government of India has decided to restrict the future exhibition of sex films to certain audiences only, through shows organized by medical institutions and by other responsible bodies engaged in health or social education. Representation was made by the importers of such films saying that unregulated commercial exploitation was being made of these films primarily intended for sex education. In future these films will not be granted certificates of the usual type for exhibition in cinema theatres.

The Government has also decided that the three films, "The Story of Bob and Sally", "Sins of Fathers" and "Because of Eve" which were granted such certificates during the period 1951-1954 shall be declared uncertified and shall be brought within the scheme of regulated exhibition under official orders.

HEAVEN BOUND

Burbank, September 20.

Oliver Hardy, famous Hollywood comedian of the Laurel and Hardy comedy team, 64, was taken ill after a sudden stroke.

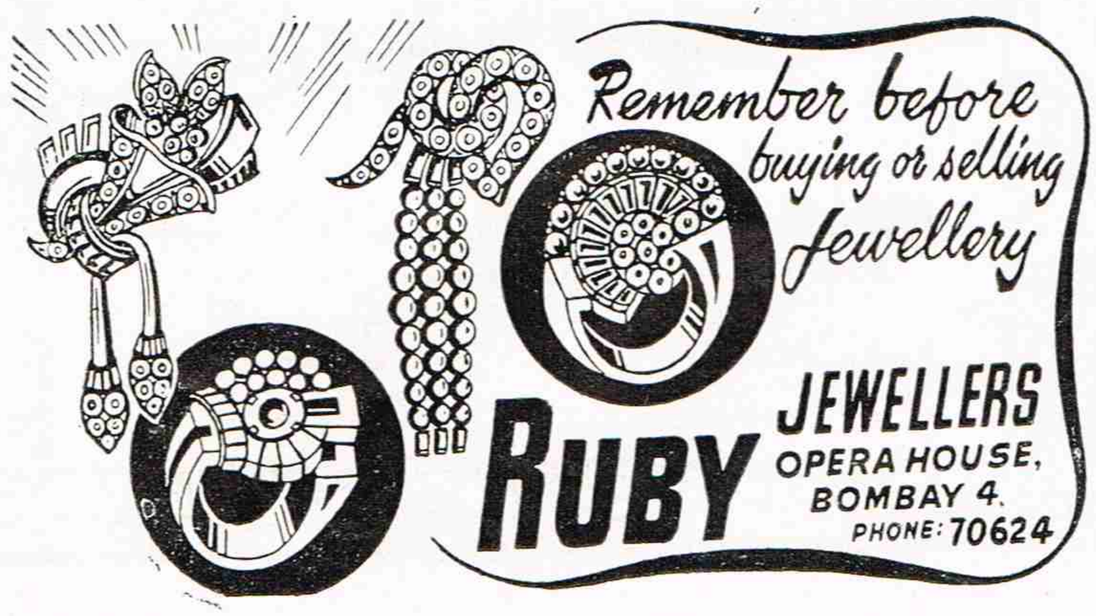
His condition is reported to be serious.

LITTLE MERCY

Bombay, September 23.

The amateur and non-professional dramatic world in Bombay heaved a sigh of relief with the latest news that the Government of Bombay had decided to exempt non-professional shows from the payment of entertainment tax, on the recommendations of the Taxation Inquiry Committee. Such exemption will be granted by the Commissioner of Police in Greater Bombay and the District Magistrates elsewhere in the city.

Non-professional entertainment includes shows by amateur artistes, students, members of clubs, etc., for non-profit ventures.



Let us hope the quality of our amateur shows improves, now that the bugbear of entertainment tax has been removed.

CRUDE YANKEE PLAYS

New York, September 10.

American stage actress, Helen Hayes, who recently completed her work as an empress in "Anastasia", set rolling an old controversy about West End vs Broadway—the two areas in London and New York respectively that are the dreams of stage artistes.

Remarked Helen Hayes, "I have never been impolite before but the West End is not a patch on our theatre. America has pulled so far ahead of British drama that they cannot see our dust. They have become sloppy. They have no playwrights to speak of and their acting is slipshod."

That roused the temper of stage actors Peter Ustinov and Robert Morley, and stage actresses Dame Sybil Thorndike, Gladys Cooper, etc. Said Gladys, "I can't bear to see most of the American plays which are about dope and other unpleasant subjects."

There is a good deal of truth in Gladys' observation. Most of the plays on Broadway do contain an overdose of morbidity and sex perversion.

TALL TALK

Allahabad, September 26.

The U.P. Government will soon establish a film library at the Education Expansion Department, Allahabad, with a view to expand and develop the audio-visual education in the State.

The library will be built gradually by securing films from the Government of India and other sources and also by production of films in U.P. itself. The films will then be lent to government and non-government institutions for exhibition.

A "commander" must have at least a commanding bulge. That seems to be the dominant idea in Nigar Sultana's make-up in "Commander", a thrilling tale of love.

The idea of a film library for educational purposes is praiseworthy but it remains to be seen how far these good intentions will be carried out.

OUT OF BUSINESS

London, September 22.

For some time past, the British film industry has been going through a crisis. The crisis has also affected the film exhibition trade and it is reported that 80 cinemas out of 600 cinemas from the Rank Organization are closing down. The closure of these cinemas involves a seating capacity of 40,000. Rise in operating costs, high entertainment tax and television are held responsible for this sorry state of affairs.

It seems that people are prepared to watch poor films on TV rather than pay to see poor films in cinemas. Moreover television has stimulated interest in other forms of entertainment like sport and culture.

REALLY?

Bombay, September 9.

The Prohibition police made a surprise raid on a drinking party in the northern suburb of Bombay on September 8. The following persons were arrested: film producers Khushiram Bediram Sharma, Pran Prakash Shethi, distributor Kashiprasad Goenka, music director Madan Mohan Kohli, Prannath Amarnath Mehra, Anant Prasad Pal, Jagdish Raj, Hira Hiranandani and Ranbir Singh Chauhan. A domestic servant, Tukaram, was also arrested. Later the arrested persons were released on bail.

The police alleged that excepting the servant, all were found drunk when medically examined. They are also reported to have seized two bottles of foreign liquor and some glasses smelling of liquor and carrying finger prints on them.

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CORTISONE MADNESS

London, September 20.

British medical specialists and a firm of drug manufacturers have asked for a ban on the film "Bigger Than Life" in Britain. The film shows James Mason in the hero's role going mad after treatment with cortisone. His marriage goes to the rocks and he tries to murder his son.

British medical men feel that if this film is shown, people's faith in cortisone will be badly shaken. Moreover this dramatic exaggeration is far from the truth for no one in Britain has gone mad after cortisone administration. A few cases have been reported from the U.S. but these patients had a history of previous psychoses.

James Mason said that they had not meant to attack the drug industry. The film depicted a growing present day evil on the excessive use of drugs and narcotics.

LABOUR PRESSURE

Sholapur, September 25.

Theatre employees in Sholapur have decided to resort to a strike, consequent on the failure of negotiations in respect of their demands for increments, dearness allowance, overtime wages, bonus and provident fund.

SHE WORE ROSES

St. Louis, September 20.

Actor and singer Guy Mitchell of "Red Garters" fame married 22-year-old Danish beauty Else Sorensen in Bay St. Louis.

Else recently posed for an American magazine wearing a smile and a spray of roses. Else is evidently a devotee of Marilyn Monroe who rose to fame by posing nude for a calendar.

Anyway roses are an improvement on Eve's fig-leaf.

SHE INCREASES VOLTAGE

Tokyo, September 26.

The ever-increasing popularity of Marilyn Monroe, Hollywood's sexiest blonde, is being used in a novel way in Japan. Every time the pretty Marilyn appears on the Japanese screen, she adds one more kilowatt of electricity for Japan.

The Japanese are using the proceeds of the sale of surplus American farm produce and American films to finance a big power development scheme in Japan. This scheme will make available more than 5,000,000 kilowatts of electric power to Japanese industry during the next five years.

Americans are the best salesmen in the world. They can sell anything from motorcars to Marilyn Monroe to anyone.

POOR PRODUCERS

Washington D.C., September 30.

According to the Commerce Department, U.S., Americans spent $1,286,000,000 on admissions to motion picture theatres in 1955. The post-war lowest figure was reached with $1,277,000,000 in 1953 while the peak was in 1946 with $1,692,000,000.

Consumer spending on radio and television receivers, records and musical instruments rose from $2,204,000,000 in 1954 to $2,360,000,000 in 1955.

America's motion picture industry contributed $1,003,000,000 to the national income in 1955 as against $929,000,000 in 1954.

AMERICAN POISON

Moscow, September 26.

Soviet teenagers are getting more and more fond of American jazz, an item which was once banned in the Stalin regime because it was believed to encourage depraved qualities in young folks.

Recently a Warsaw band called "Polish Blue Jazz" got an audience of 10,000 at Moscow's Central Park of culture and rest.

"Komsomolskaya Pravda", the conscience-keeper of the Communist youth, commenting on this jazz mania wrote, "By their super-vigilant efforts to stifle jazz, our relentless jazz critics turned it into forbidden fruit and simply fanned an unhealthy, heightened and indiscriminate taste for it among the nation's youth." And about the Polish, Hungarian and Russian jazz shows, the paper said that, "They're all American, and imitation American at that."

They all begin with music and end with love—not forgetting the beard. Why people in love neglect to shave is not yet known but the beard has somehow become a symbol of a lover neglected by the sweetheart. Bharat Bhushan gives a sterling performance in 'Basant Bahar", a sighing, singing tale of love.

VICTIM OF ENTERPRISE

Boston, September 15.

William Edgerton, 23, and son of Dr. Harold E. Edgerton, the well-known photographic

Hatred and jealousy make a woman's face ugly. A woman never accepts her fate as the will of God. She fights back and in the process becomes ugly and repulsive. Nargis plays a memorable role in " Chori Chori", a social tale produced by AVM.

expert who invented ultra high-speed flashlight equipment, died while trying to take underwater pictures of the sunken Italian liner "Andrea Doria", off Nantucket Island. The expedition was headed by Dr. Christian Lambertsen. Death was said to be due to lack of oxygen.

The expedition was then called off.

LESS TAX

Washington D.C., Sept. 15.

The American film industry is jubilant over the new King Bill signed by President Eisenhower recently whereby tickets costing 50 to 90 cents will be exempted from the 10% Federal admission tax. Tickets costing 91 cents and over will be subject to the usual tax.

The COMPO conducted three tax campaigns from 1953 onwards and was responsible for getting this tax exemption. It is estimated that this measure will add $51,800,000 to the industry's annual income.

The Treasury Department of U.S. has calculated that there will be an annual revenue loss of $60,000,000 on account of the new Bill but it will be made up by increased income tax collections from the industry itself.

VENICE FESTIVAL

Venice, September 20.

Contrary to usual practice, this year the Gold Lion of St. Mark, the grand prize of the Venice Film Festival, was not awarded to any film, probably because the jury didn't find any film worthy of the Award.

Awards for best acting were won by Maria Schell, a French actress, for her acting in Rene Clement's French film "Jervaise" and by French actor Bourville for his role in "La Traversee de Paris", directed by Claude Autant-Lara.

The American film "Attack", the subject of much controversy, won the Francesco Pasinetti Prize. "Call Mayor" was described as the finest entry at the Festival.

India as usual was not even mentioned.

THEIR FOURTH

Bombay, September 29.

Producer-director-actor Raj Kapoor became a father for the fourth time when charming wife Krishna Kapoor presented him a pretty little daughter on September 28.

Raj has already three children—Dabboo, Rita and Chintu. His programme on the domestic front seems to be moving pretty fast.

Whatever may be the other quarrels, the Raj-Krishna marriage is very successful in domestic output.

THEY DESERVE

Kurnool, October 1.

On the occasion of the third anniversary celebration of the Andhra State, the first linguistic State to be formed in India, Andhra artistes were honoured at a special function held at Raj Bhavan and presided by Shri Chandulal Trivedi, Governor of Andhra State.

'Kalaprapurna' Shri Vijhala China Sitaramaswami Sastri, the grammarian, Dr. Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu, the violinist, and 'Padmashri' Sthanam Narasimha Rao, actor, were each presented with gold-laced shawls and purses containing Rs. 1116. Film actress Bhanumati was presented with a silver casket containing the Andhra State emblem.

The Andhras are great art-lovers and know how to respect their artistes.

THE ECLIPSE

New Delhi, October 1.

Mr. S. B. Capoor, District and Sessions Judge, Delhi, ordered notices to be issued to Mr. Mohan Sehgal, a film producer of Bombay and 20 others—in-

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Men are always in a terrible hurry to press their suit but women have to think ten times before they accept the pressure. Nimmi is weighing the consequences of Bharat Bhushan's impatience in "Basant Bahar".

cluding scenario writers, distributors and exhibitors—directing them to appear in his court.

The order was passed in connection with a suit filed by Mr. R. G. Anand, a Delhi playwright, who alleged that Sehgal's film "New Delhi" was based on his play "Hum Hindustani". The plaintiff alleged that the defendants had thereby infringed his copyright in the play. He also requested that a temporary injunction be issued restraining the defendants from exhibiting a film or in the alternative a receiver be appointed to take charge and keep accounts of the earnings of the film.

ALERT ITALIANS

London, October 1.

The Associazione Nazionale Industrie Cinematografiche Ed Afini—ANICA—concluded a new three-year agreement with British film producers, whereby the ANICA has agreed to waive the compulsory deposit in respect of two British films imported into Italy for every one Italian film shown on a major United Kingdom cinema "circuit".

Under the new Italian law to protect the film industry, foreign films dubbed in Italian must deposit 5,500,000 lire in respect of their circulation in that country.

ANICA have also offered exemption from the deposit for dubbing to one British film for every one Italian film if given a minimum guarantee of at least £10,000 for U.K. and Commonwealth distribution.

What is Balu Keskar doing? Can't he stop the American producers from taking huge profits out of India?

'NOO' YANKEE FLEA

London, October 2.

Cinema managers in Britain are rather worried about the rowdy reaction of thousands of teenagers over the American film "Rock Around The Clock" featuring a new variety of jazz called "Rock 'n' Roll".

At Bottle, near Liverpool, police used their batons to stop a crowd of 1000 singing and "jiving" youths for a mile through the centre of the town. At the cinema where the picture was showing, police had to help ushers stop couples "jiving" in the aisles. The dialogue was drowned by the audience singing and clapping. Fireworks were thrown during the performance.

At Gaiety Cinema, Manchester, the Teddy Boys (name given to delinquents in London) ripped open the cinema seats, threw light bulbs and even turned a fire hose on some people who objected to their violent behaviour.

The story is the same all over Britain where the picture is making adolescents and teenagers wildly mad, causing exuberation and maximum sexual excitement. Some towns have banned this troublesome picture.

The wild rhythm of "Rock 'n' Roll" is perfectly infectious and even in Morarji's Bombay, "Rock Around The Clock" is running to crowded houses for the 8th week and may be for several weeks more.

MOTHER'S CROSSWORD

Hollywood, September 28.

Blonde-actress Sheree North, the popular star of "The Lieutenant Wore Skirts", has an interesting story about her parents.

All her life Sheree thought that she was Dawn Bethel, daughter of Edward Bethel. But now she just discovered that her real father was Richard Francis Crang who died about five years ago. Her mother was divorced from Crang a little before Sheree was born but she never revealed this fact to her daughter. The mother then married Edward Bethel and again divorced him. Bethel who loved Sheree let her grow up believing that she was his daughter.

In Hollywood, where divorce is an inseparable part of married life, these situations are all

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too common. Sheree North shouldn't tax her smart brain with such tricky problems!

PATCHED UP

Hollywood, September 28.

Usually a mother-in-law is considered to be one of the factors in wrecking a marriage but in case of Cynthia Lemmon, estranged wife of popular actor Jack Lemmon, Mrs. Mildred Lemmon has been instrumental in smoothening out the rough corners between the two during her recent illness.

Mrs. Mildred Lemmon was in hospital with a compound fracture of her leg. Cynthia nursed her for quite some days and took Mildred to her home for convalescing.

Jack Lemmon is in London finishing his work in "Fire Down Below" starring himself and Rita Hayworth.

Cynthia's maternal instinct seems to have been roused by Mildred.

IN TEN LANGUAGES

New Delhi, September 28.

The report of the Central Committee of State Film Awards presented at the Award-giving ceremony held on September 20 in New Delhi, revealed that 287 films were approved for general public exhibition by the Central Board of Film Censors during 1955, a 5% increase over the 1954 figures. 126 were in Hindi, 51 in Bengali, 46 in Tamil, 24 in Telugu, 15 in Kannada, 12 in Marathi, 7 in Malayalam, 3 in Gujarati, 2 in Assamese, 1 in English. The committees at the regional centres previewed 51 films to select the best picture of 1955 as against 43 of 1954, while the Central Committee saw 14 feature films recommended by regional committees and 14 documentary films recommended by the Film Advisory Board.

HER PET SID

New York, September 15.

Gloria Laura Morgan Vanderbilt, the 32-year-old heiress who divorced her second husband, Maestro Leopold Stokowski, some time ago, married actor and TV director Sidney Lumet, also 32, in Manhattan. Sidney Lumet's first wife was Rita Gam, now a rising actress in Hollywood.

Gloria Vanderbilt has some artistic leanings and acted for a while on Broadway. She also wrote a book of poems in 1955 called "Love Poems" and dedicated it to "For S and the Search". The 'S' was Sidney. Anyway, Gloria's search has ended now with her conquest of Sidney!

GOOD OLD LLOYD

Memphis, September 15.

Lloyd T. Binford, the conscientious movie censor of Memphis, died at the ripe old age of 89.

Nothing would pass his quick discerning eye and he was a big headache even to his own American producers. He banned pictures of Charlie Chaplin and Ingrid Bergman because he considered their private lives to be immoral. The puritan in Binford could never be suppressed.

HAMLET'S "FATHER"

New York, September 15.

Percy Mackaye, a popular Broadway playwright some years ago, died at Cornish, at the age of 81. He also wrote plays in verse, the best known being, "The Mystery Of Hamlet, King Of Denmark".

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LOOKING UP

Paris, September 16.

The report by M. Jacques Flaud, director of the French National Cinema Centre, written for the Development Fund, paints an encouraging picture of the French film industry.

During the first six months of 1956, more money was spent on cinema redecoration and refurnishing than in any similar period. Though production costs

20th October 1956. Stars came to wish Sushila Rani Patel a happy birthday. From left to right: Nimmi, Mrs. Sushila Rani Patel and Mala Sinha.

were still high owing to colour and new techniques, technicians were all employed and all studios were busy.

Recently the Fund granted 1 billion francs for the development of the industry's technical side and 240 million francs for newsreel companies.

The market for French films abroad was slowly expanding.

WITHOUT EVEN SEEING

Bombay, October 4.

Presidency Magistrate R. S. Parikh, Girgaum Court, sentenced Jethamal Shyamlal Multani, 19, to one month's rigorous imprisonment for possession and selling obscene films. The other accused, Ramsingh Thakur and Narayan Garud, were acquitted.

On November 26, 1955, Jethamal along with the other accused, was arrested by the police while receiving six marked hundred rupee notes from a bogus customer for delivering three tins of obscene films.

The Magistrate ordered the police to destroy the films immediately.

TOTTERING

London, October 3.

The tottering British film industry is likely to get some new life as the British Government has decided to consolidate into one bill proposals to give aid to film producers. This would make the present voluntary levy on cinema admissions statutory and continue the life of the National Films Finance Corporation.

The levy brings in over £2,000,000 a year and this is utilized in the production of British films to compete with Hollywood films. There are, however, many who are opposed to the levy while one section is interested in reducing the "crippling" entertainment tax. The November session will soon decide the fate of the independent British film producers.

FULL OF MILK

Hollywood, September 30.

Bosomy actress Jane Russell adopted a third child, a little boy, recently. Jane is not satisfied with her present brood of three adopted children and says that she wants to adopt three more.

Jane probably believes in the old saying, "cheaper by the dozen". She seems to be a perfect mother in physique and temperament.

'ICEBERG' HARDENING

Hollywood, September 28.

Swedish blonde Anita Ekberg, now Mrs. Anthony Steel and

They light up with exultant joy when they see the mouse walking steadily towards the trap. That is a moment when even old cats look beautiful and the young ones look more than beautiful. Vyjayantimala brings new thrills to the screen in "Sitaron-se-Aagey", a sensational motion picture.

one of the most publicized girls in Hollywood, has stated that in future she will not submit herself to cheesecake or leg art photography in pictures unless there is a necessity of doing so in the script. Said Anita, "I think wrapped-up sex is much more attractive."

When Anita was an unknown quantity, her producers spent over $50,000 and screamed about her figure, calling her "Miss 39-25-34". Now that Anita is an established star, she seems to have discarded this technique.

EXPLOITED HIM

Hollywood, October 1.

Ernest Borgnine, who won the Academy Award last year for best acting in "Marty", filed a suit against Hecht-Lancaster to annul his contract with them and also collect damages of $142,500 plus interest from them.

Borgnine alleged that Hecht-Lancaster exercised their contractual right to pre-empt his services and then loaned him to do the same film he was negotiating for. He also alleged that these producers made out of him "at least $75,000" while he got only $15,000. The film was "The Best Things In Life Are Free".

BLACK CASSINI

Hollywood, October 1.

Jayne Mansfield, a well-proportioned blonde actress who is the current rage on Broadway in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" has brightened up a lot ever since she met Oleg Cassini, a dress-designer and ex-husband of film actress Gene Tierney.

According to her own admission, Jayne's last year in New York was "an intellectual phase" in her life. Said Jayne, "I wore black, black, black up to my ears and went out with Oleg Cassini. You go out with the right people, everything's black, even the cars."

TAILOR-MADE

Hollywood, October 1.

Popular pianist-actor Wladziu Valentino Liberace, 36, left for a six-week concert tour of Europe, carrying with him 60 changes of clothes and his $15,000 glass-topped piano.

Known as "Mom's darling boy", Liberace excites quite a few by his correct behaviour, one of them being author Philip Wylie. Said Wylie of Liberace, "He is a superannuated Little Lord Fauntleroy. When he came to Miami, I was going to round up every guy with any masculinity, and we were going to stone that guy to death with marsh mallows."

NIPPED IN BUD

Los Angeles, September 23.

Sandra Jane Hayden, the 15-year-old starlet daughter of Jan Clayton, a television actress, died in an automobile accident on September 22. Sandra's father was Russell Hayden, the famous character actor who acted in the original Hopalong Cassidy films.

BAMBOOZLING

Bombay, October 1.

The Government of Bombay has decided to relax the rules regarding the construction of cinemas in Greater Bombay and allow at least eight more cinemas to come up.

The Government of Bombay has invited applications for this purpose. The new cinemas will have to be modern and air-conditioned.

While the housing problem of the poor still remains as acute as before, the construction of luxury cinemas in a city packed with cinemas, does seem out of place. But then Government never believes in doing first things first.

KNIFING MOULVI

Lahore, October 4.

Syed Munnawar Hussain Rizvi, brother-in-law of Producer Shaukat Hussein and general manager of Shahnoor Studios, was stabbed by an angry "maulvi" because he was asked not to make any noise in the studio. Syed Rizvi, later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

It is alleged that the "maulvi" had a habit of shouting and abusing people. His job was to recite verses from the Koran at functions held in the Shahnoor Studios.

JAP CRIMINALS

Tokyo, October 1.

Delinquency in Japan these days is causing some worry to the authorities and a new set of boys calling themselves "The Tribe of the Sun" are painting the town red with a variety of delinquent acts.

Part of the trouble has been traced to the Japanese box-office hit called "The Season of the Sun" based on Shintaro Ishiwara's novel. The picture shows a young boy rebelling against old conventions. Other

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objectionable Japanese films like "The Punishment Room" depicting a student drugging his girl friend and then seducing her and "Crooked Fruit" have only worsened the ugly situation. Some of the responsible Japanese are asking for more intelligent censorship so that such harmful films are kept away from impressionable youngsters but the Japanese Government is rather reluctant to enforce legislation.

AN OLD FRIEND

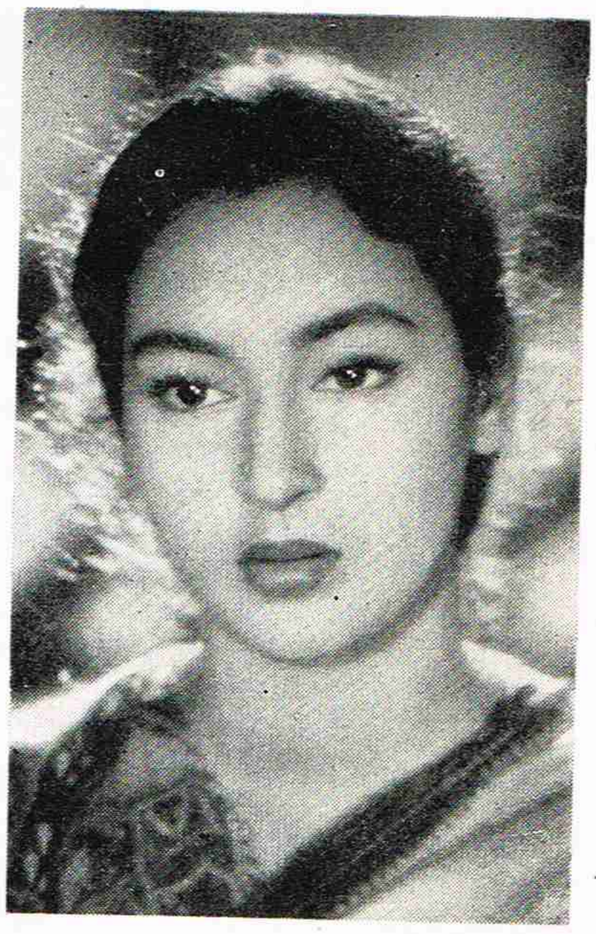
Madras, October 4.

Well-known South Indian director-cameraman, K. Ramnoth, died in Secunderabad on October 3, after a short illness at the age of 43.

His association with films went back to the early talkie days when he had formed his production concern Kartikeya Films in Adyar. Later he made films for Vauhini Studios. He was also production executive for Gemini Studios and the founder-president of the Cine Technicians' Association in South India.

Some of Ramnoth's popular pictures, either photographed or directed, are: "Devta", "Sumangali", "Mangamma Sabatham", "Miss Malini", "Kalpana" and "Marma Yogi".

Ramnoth's death is a distinct loss to the Indian film industry where efficient and conscientious workers are very few.



Those eyes are still holding innocence in spite of working in some Marwari studios. Meet Nutan in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a social romance.

HANGOVER KID

London, October 1.

An eighteen-year-old Jewish boy, Michael Hastings, whose play "Don't Destroy Me" is delighting audiences at the Royal Court Theatre, London, has set a record in teenage playwrighting.

Michael has already completed one more "Yes, And After", while he has been asked to write one more "I am God". And his fourth play is "I Am A Tailor", describing his experiences as a tailor at West End where he works as an apprentice.

Michael has a weakness for boxing, bull-fighting and blondes. Unusually active, Michael hates sleeping because as he puts it, "Always feel I am missing so much. Things are going on, and there's no time to lose."

The younger generation loves Michael and thrills to see his plays. Michael evidently is a tailor with fiery imagination. The boy seems to be having a hangover from his previous birth.

OUR REVIEW

"Zindagi", A Good Theme Poorly Presented

Clumsy and Amateurish Production

Kesar Films' "Zindagi" is equipped with a basically interesting story and had that story been imaginatively developed and skilfully presented it could have resulted in an absorbing motion picture.

But that has not been done. Instead, by an erratic development and a thoroughly amateurish treatment by the director, a good story has been nearly killed and an excellent opportunity for turning out a sensible and sensitive motion picture entirely lost. And though the makers of this picture do deserve some credit for making an attempt at telling an interesting and out-of-the-rut story, for the actual presentation they deserve none.

The central idea of the story is that whether astrology be a science or not, belief in it can sometimes be baneful. And this idea is conveyed through the pathetic tale of a young, cheerful girl who on the eve of her engagement accidentally overhears an astrologer telling her father that she was destined to die five months later on a particular day, at a particular hour and who then passes through five terrible months of great psychical suffering and agonising suspense only to find, at the end of the period, the astrologer wrong and herself alive.

It is a subject which called for a screenplay writer and a director with not only thorough skill in their respective fields but with a good study of human psychology and emotions. The idea of portraying a person frightfully aware of overhanging death is not new and was used, though in entirely different ways, not so long ago in at least two Hollywood films, "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "The Hasty Heart". But to show what a person, fatalistically expecting to die at an appointed hour after a few months, would do and think in the intervening time certainly requires at least a fraction of the imaginative power and psychological insight of a Dostoevsky. The director and the screenplay writer of "Zindagi" totally fail to measure up to the demands of the story and give a picture which is extremely dull, tame and uninspiring.

TIMED TO DIE

The story shows Nandini, the daughter of Lala Karam Chand, as a pert, cheerful girl in love with Amar, vaguely hinted to be a journalist, and hoping soon to be engaged to him since her parents approve of the youth. Before fixing his daughter's marriage to Amar, Karam Chand, a stout believer in astrology, summons an astrologer to compare the respective horoscopes of Nandini and Amar, and to announce a propitious day for the marriage. The astrologer, however, becomes disturbed on analysing Nandini's horoscope and when repeatedly pressed to speak the truth, announces that the girl was destined to die five months later "on the 21st of May, at 12 o'clock in the night, under a starry sky."

The forecast shakes up Karam Chand completely. Unwilling to believe it but unable to doubt it, Karam Chand decides to keep the grim prediction to himself not knowing that Nandini had accidentally overheard the whole thing and was already undergoing great psychical suffering. The rest of the picture painfully, slowly and quite clumsily shows how the father and the daughter try to go through the routine of life normally and without sharing their agony and suspense with anyone. Nandini manages to break up with Amar who gradually gets attached to Meera, Nandini's friend. The climax is staged without much imagination and in a rather tame fashion and it all ends with the astrologer being proved wrong and Nandini remaining alive, recovering her nerves and regaining her love.

In this mood women are always very expressive. Decencies give them a headache. Let us see what Nigar Sultana is about in "Commander", a thrilling story.

POOR ALL ROUND

The production values are poor. Sets are shabby. Photography is generally clumsy and erratic. Sound recording is inefficient. The dialogue, excepting in snatches, is unimpressive. The music sounds commonplace. The direction is amateurish on the whole showing clumsy errors even in frame composition.

From the players, Geeta Bali as Nandini gives an inconsistent performance though her usual talent is visible in larger part of her work. She, however, looks here more unattractive than ever. Jaswant, who plays Amar, throughout looks ungainly with his pint size and expressionless face. Jagidsh Sethi as Karam Chand puts over quite a nice performance. Vijaylaxmi as Amar's alternate beloved, Meera, does some mechanical work. From the rest, Gulab as Nandini's mother is rather stereotyped while Baby Naaz as Nandini's sister is quite good.

In short, "Zindagi" is a tame, slow-paced and unimaginative presentation of a basically good idea which, under better direction and treatment, could have made an absorbing picture.

ZINDAGI

Producers: **Kesar Films**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue: **Shahi Bhushan**
Lyrics: **Kaifi Azmi, Raja Mehdi Ali**
Music: **Mohammed Shafi**
Photography: **Chandu**
Cast: **Geeta Bali, Jaswant, Jagdish Sethi, Vijaylaxmi, Gulab, Baby Naaz, etc.**
Released At: **Krishna, Bombay**
Date of Release: **28th September 1956**

Directed By:
C. L. DHEER

OUR REVIEW

"Naya Andaz", An Old Babel With New Label

Song and Dance Prescription

K. Amarnath Productions' "Naya Andaz" is an old babel with a new label. The picture is crammed with about a dozen songs and about an equal number of dances hanging down an old peg of a story. The peg is sturdy enough to support the songs and dances but not attractive enough to sustain the interest of an intelligent audience. Besides, though the dose of music is certainly heavy, it is far from heady. The picture is thus just a familiar and foolish narrative liberally punctuated with songs and dances.

Since, however, the picture is obviously not designed to do anything more than provide some entertainment through music and tomfoolery, it can be called a moderate entertainer because it does manage to provide some popular entertainment.

TALE OF TWO POETS

The old, weary peg of a story deals with Chand, the restless son of a rusty, old father, with both of them labouring under the impression that they are poets. But while Chand's father takes pride in lending dignity and gravity to the themes of his verses, Chand is devoted to romantic nonsense. And when once Chand proves his verses to be more popular than the old man's, there follows a showdown between them resulting in Chand leaving his home.

Accompanied by a comical character called Karim, Chand goes through numerous adventures including the enjoyment of a gipsy gang's hospitality. Picking up Lalli, a gipsy girl, as a sweetheart for Karim, the lads land in Bombay where they join the theatre of Ashok. That keeps them busy for a number of songs and dances. Trouble, however, starts when Ashok discovers that Chand is not only singing on the stage, but is steadily singing his way into the heart of Mala, the theatre's leading artiste and Ashok's jealously guarded treasure. Reacting quickly Ashok sacks Chand & Co. from the theatre and when they try to set up a rival outfit, he sends hoodlums to break their shows. He further manages to deceive Chand into believing that Mala had decided to break with him, and to subdue Mala temporarily with the help of her drink-soaked bully of a brother. By the end, however, all the obstacles in the path of true love are mowed down along with intelligence, and the lover is happily reunited with the beloved, and the son with his parents.

MEDIOCRE STUFF

The picture is wanting in coherence and lacks credibility, freshness and imagination. But it so often rides on musical notes and dancing rhythm and comical noise that many may not find time to notice the defects.

The production values are average. Sets are tolerable. Photography is average. Sound recording could be better. The lyrics are mostly uninspiring. The music is pleasant without being too melodious. The dialogue fits the flimsy familiar story. The direction is a blindfold dispensing of box-office ingredients.

From the players, Kishore as Chand does his usual type of work in an usual role. Meena Kumari as Mala seems to be on the wane both in looks and acting. Johnny Walker as Karim seems to try harder for laughs and fails to click. Kum Kum as his sweetheart fills the bill. Pran as Ashok does a lot of things but nothing catches so much attention as his new and funny hairdo. Murad as Chand's father shows all the evidence of life only in his throat—the rest of him moves like the robot.

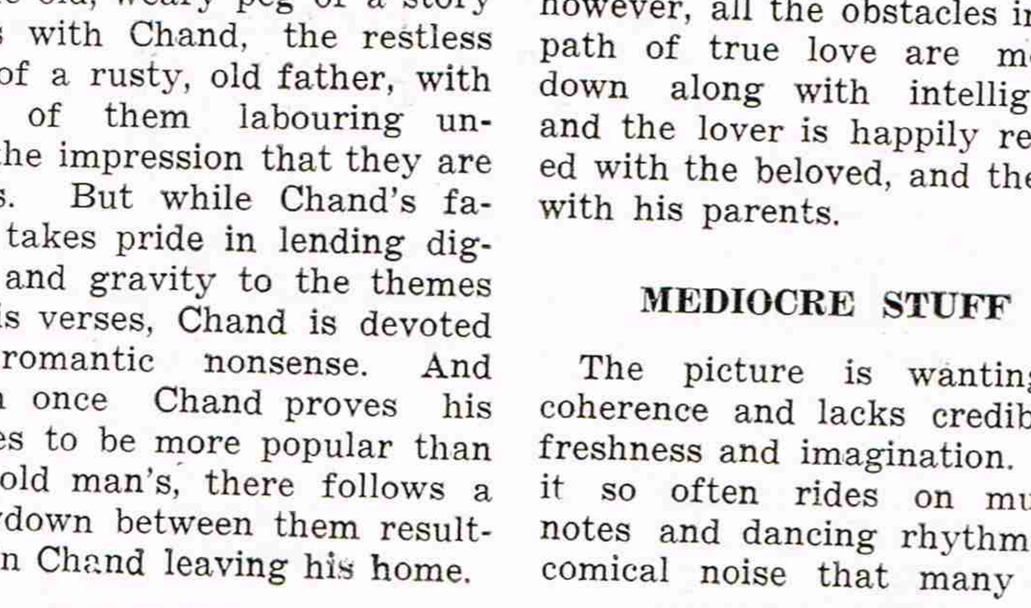
In fine, "Naya Andaz" is a moderate entertainer without being at all novel or refreshing. It may be seen but should not be talked about.

In the South everyone dances including the producer. Anything in sari, therefore, has the fundamental right to take a pose or do a turn. This one is Jamuna and she also rolls around in "Miss Mary", a social tale produced by AVM.

NAYA ANDAZ

Producers:	**K. Amarnath Productions**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story:	**K. Amarnath**
Screenplay:	**K. Amarnath and Aman**
Dialogue:	**Ahsan Rizvi**
Lyrics:	**Jan Nisar Akhtar**
Music:	**O. P. Nayyar**
Photography:	**Vasant Nagesh Buva**
Audiography:	**K. V. Shah**
Cast:	**Meena Kumari, Kishore, Pran, Gope, Kum Kum, Johnny Walker, etc.**
Released At:	**Novelty, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**14th September 1956**

Directed By:
K. AMARNATH



OUR REVIEW

"Funtoosh" Is Noise And Muddle

Poor Story And Direction Affect Picture

Navketan's "Funtoosh", Dev Anand's second fling at production, was evidently conceived as a comedy but has been delivered as merely gay nonsense. And the damage seems to have been done by an extremely inept screenplay and a completely indifferent direction.

There still seems to lurk in

Motor cars lend spot and speed to romantic intrigues. Modern lovers take their first vows of love in distant jungles with birds as their witnesses. That is why when they return home they forget their vows and begin to quarrel. Ashok Kumar and Vyjayantimala keep the jungle fires burning in "Sitaron-se-Aagey", a romantic thriller produced by Narasu Studios.

the picture an interesting comedy idea but what the audience sees is only shreds of a story separated from each other by miles of prattle, buffoonery and idle excitement. Coherence here is given a cold shoulder and credibility no quarter. There is plenty of obvious straining for effect but little effort to be intelligible. It all results in an empty show making much noise.

For those, however, who do not mind confusion on the screen provided it is served in a clean dish mixed with gaiety and garnished with music, "Funtoosh" is a fair fare. It is a muddled affair but not a dull affair and thus much more tolerable than many pictures which are both.

MAD MAN'S ADVENTURE

It all begins with a youth, self-styled as Funtoosh and the inmate of an "International" lunatic asylum, being discharged from the institution in the belief that he is well on way to recovery and in the hope that contact with the world outside will help his recovery. After a crazy farewell with his fellow inmates Funtoosh leaves the asylum looking a fit case for admission. Within a short time of his liberty Funtoosh is robbed of practically everything upon him and is then nearly knocked down by a car. The car owner, Seth Karorilal, who appears to be a rich man with poor intelligence, angrily tells Funtoosh to court his death in the sea or atop a building but not under his car.

Funtoosh takes the suggestion seriously and next we see him standing atop a tall building and getting ready to jump down. Somehow managing to appear on the scene, Karorilal tries to stop Funtoosh from killing himself and succeeds only after he assures Funtoosh that he will not only allow him to commit suicide at the end of a week but will remind him to do so. Funtoosh then accompanies Karorilal to his big house in order to thoroughly enjoy life for a week.

The intention of Karorilal in feeding and entertaining Funtoosh, it is soon discovered, is to get the crazy man's life insured for a lakh of rupees and then to collect the sum as the assignee after Funtoosh has committed suicide. The ease with which Karorilal goes about the scheme makes him look no less crazy than Funtoosh. Funtoosh, however, manages to get insured but meanwhile he grows and creates romantic interest in Neeroo, Karorilal's daughter, and when at the end of the week Karorilal takes him to a railway track and asks him to keep his promise, Funtoosh, feeling bound by his promise to commit suicide but having begun to love life after getting a pleasant taste of it, pleads with Karorilal to postpone the day of his suicide.

Karorilal agrees, and then the story goes on in its incoherent way to show how Funtoosh and Neeroo fall in love with each other and how Funtoosh becomes more reluctant than ever to die and how Karorilal consistently fails to send Funtoosh to his death. After receiving a beating at the hands of some of Karorilal's men, Funtoosh manages to recover his sanity and memory, and to remember that he had gone mad when his mother and sister had been burnt to death in the fire that their house had caught. The greedy and debt-ridden Karorilal who sought to goad the insane man into suicide, now decides to murder him when he recovers sanity. Karorilal ultimately fails in his scheme and it all ends with Karorilal himself landing in the asylum while Funtoosh and Neeroo, united in love, look forward to happy days.

SHEILA RAMANI FAILS

The production values are generally fine. Sets are adequate. Photography is pleasant. Sound recording is a bit erratic. The music sounds quite earful. The dialogue is good in bits but the effect of many of these bits is marred by the direction which is often bad and always indifferent.

From the players, Dev Anand in the title role dons many guises, does many things and makes many faces—all in a zealous attempt to execute comedy. But the attempt seems to be characterized by more zeal than talent, though even better talent couldn't have made that silly and tedious role much effective. Sheila Ramani as

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Neeroo is utterly uninspiring. The woman should be miles away from a film studio, seeing her performance. K. N. Singh as the scheming Karorilal is allowed to play the villain in an off-beat manner this time without being given to the usual shouting and frowning, and therefore looks much more effective. From the rest, except the man who fills the bill as Neeroo's suitor, nobody deserves comment.

In short, "Funtoosh" is a muddled tale and an ineffective comedy. But as a bit of gay nonsense, it is a tolerable affair.

FUNTOOSH

Producers:	Nav Ketan
Language:	Hindustani
Story:	Amarjeet
Screenplay:	Chetan Anand, Uma Anand
Dialogue:	Chetan Anand
Lyrics:	Sahir Ludhianvi
Music:	S. D. Burman
Photography:	V. Ratra
Sound:	J. M. Barot
Cast:	Dev Anand, Sheila Ramani, K. N. Singh, Hammad, etc.
Released At:	Lamington, Bombay
Date of Release:	28th September 1956

Directed By:
CHETAN ANAND

OUR REVIEW

"Samundari Daku" Monument Of Stupidity

Picture A Lethal Torture

"Samundari Daku" is the name of an abominable exercise done in the name of film making by a concern which goes by the name of Cine Arts. The exercise runs for about two hours and looks hideous every minute of its total period. All the art in the picture is confined to the name of the concern.

A lethal torture and a complete fraud as motion picture entertainment, the picture is a monument of cinematic stupidity and inefficiency. It is idiotically directed, stupidly acted and utterly clumsily photographed. The music in it sounds just so much noise. The dialogue in it sounds just so much wind. The story in it looks just so much ugly confusion. It is, one honestly feels, a picture which could not have been made worse.

KING vs VAZIR

The story is the old, old, old, stinking yarn about a scheming vazir who plots with the local king's new, faithless wife to usurp the throne. The queen tries to stab her husband to death but failing in that has him quietly put in the dungeon. The vazir tells the suspicious subjects that the king is on holiday, and then proceeds to enjoy his own heyday. But soon, of course, Ashok, the commoner, unsheathes his sword to challenge the vazir and from then on one keeps on hearing a lot of tin sounds, and witnessing a whole procession of stupidities. In the end, the faithless queen and the wicked vazir meet their deserved deaths, while Ashok wins the hand of the princess after freeing the king from the dungeon.

ROTTEN ALL ROUND

The production values are just rotten. Sets are crude and ugly. Photography is pedestrian. Sound recording is atrociously incompetent. The music, lyrics and the dialogue have practically no merit at all. The direction is nightmarishly stupid.

From the players, Nadira plays the princess, makes some funny faces and makes a fool of herself. Nasir Khan as Ashok looks ugly and unconvincing. Johnny Walker executes some cheap clowning. Iftikhar as the vazir looks stony and stupid. Indu Paul as the faithless queen appears to be constantly surprised at herself in that role. Kum Kum does some tolerable swaying and acting.

In short, "Samundari Daku" is a hideous, torturous picture which everyone who is a friend of himself must try his all to avoid.

SAMUNDARI DAKU

Producers:	Cine Arts
Language:	Hindustani
Story & Dialogue:	A. R. Zamindar
Lyrics:	V. M. Adil
Music:	Jaidev
Photograpy:	R. K. Pandit
Cast:	Nadira, Nasir Khan, Johnny Walker, Iftikhar, Kum Kum, Indu Paul, etc.
Released At:	Capitol, Bombay
Date of Release:	21st September 1956

Directed By:
A. R. ZAMINDAR

The telephone seems to be charged with a vital message the way Vyjayantimala is anxiously trying to pick up its whisper even before Raj Mehra conveys the news in "Aasha", a romantic social tale produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

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BEWARE OF JAPANESE IMITATION

In woman, youth is a season with many faces. Here is a sweet and homely face, almost innocent in its anxiety of youth, waiting to be discovered. Meena Kumari drops years of knowledge from her eyes in "Miss Mary" and makes her little "lamb" follow her everywhere.

OUR REVIEW

"New Delhi", Purposeful Screen Entertainment

Picture Deserves To Be Seen By All

"New Delhi", Mohan Sehgal's maiden effort in production and his third attempt at direction, is a picture which is entertaining, enlightening, purposeful and topical—all at once. In our sorry film industry it is indeed an unusual feat and its young producer-director therefore deserves all praise for making an intelligent effort to entertain through the usually-abused film medium.

The purpose behind "New Delhi" is to expose and emphasize the crass and inherent stupidity of that widely-prevalent attitude in India which is called provincialism and which makes the people of one linguistic region deride and distrust those of others. It is the attitude which makes U.P.-ites call Punjabis names, Punjabis call Sindhis names, Maharashtrians call Gujratis names, Bengalis call Biharis names and so on and always vice versa. Since stupidity has a knack of multiplying, there are further mutually prejudiced, if not hostile groups in Marathas and Maharashtrians, Brahmins and non-Brahmins and so on. There seems to be no end to the stupidity. This parochialism is not merely a stupidity but a dangerously disintegrative tendency for the nation as was indicated by the fur that flew following the States Reorganisation Commission's Report.

"New Delhi's" attempt to denounce this attitude, therefore, is commendable and more so because it adopts as the form of denunciation, satire—a dependable device for driving a theme home. The satire in "New Delhi" provides plenty of fun and amusement and at the same time effectively communicates the picture's message. And even though the satire is not really brilliant, being at times crude and at times weak, the picture still emerges as a worthy and worth seeing piece of screen entertainment.

ALL OVER A HOUSE

The satire gets rolling when Anand, a Punjabi youth, lands in Delhi and starts hunting for a house and during the hunt realizes that an essential qualification for a tenant is to belong to the same community as that of the landlord. Posing himself as a South Indian, Anand succeeds in getting a few rooms with a South Indian and in due time develops a romantic friendship with Janki, a young South Indian dance teacher, leading her also to believe that he is a South Indian.

When Anand has inspired enough confidence and appreciation in Janki's father, Subramaniam, to deserve consideration as a match for Janki, Anand's father, mother and sister also arrive in Delhi, his father Daulatram having been transferred to take charge of the same office in which Subramaniam works. And when Subramaniam expresses the desire to meet Anand's father in order to settle Anand's marriage with Janki, Anand in a desperate bid to continue his ruse forces his South Indian servant to pretend to be his father and accompany him to Subramaniam's house. Follows a highly amusing scene in which Anand's imposture is barely saved from being revealed when Daulatram also turns up on the scene unexpectedly.

The inevitable discovery of Anand's ruse, however, is finally made by all in another amusing scene with not so amusing results. Daulatram becomes furious at Anand and Subramaniam at Janki. Finding her marriage being fixed to another, Janki, who continues to love Anand even after he is exposed, rushes to Anand appealing to him to do something quickly to save their love. Anand expresses his reluctance to take any rash step till his sister Nikki's coming marriage comes off without any hindrance.

That makes Janki frustrated and she decides to jump into

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the Jamuna but is prevented in time by a Punjabi grocer known to her who seems to believe in supporting pure love and selling adulterated ghee. In order to teach her hide-bound father a lesson, the grocer takes Janki to his home and gives out the news that she had drowned. Believing the news, Subramaniam begins to mourn and regret his provincial prejudices, but Anand soon manages to discover the truth. The grocer then announces Janki to be his niece and succeeds in fixing her marriage to Anand with his parents' consent.

The story now rushes to the climax as Nikki, who in her turn had fallen in love with a Bengali artist, awaits being forced into marriage with an unknown Punjabi chosen by her parents. Just before the wedding ceremony, the father of the groom, unsatisfied with the dowry offered by Daulatram, demands around ten thousand rupees before letting the ceremony proceed. With all his self-humiliating pleas, Daulatram fails to persuade the groom's father to allow the marriage, and even to raise a loan from any among the collected crowd of friends, relatives and acquaintances. When, however, the bridegroom's party is about to leave the place after completing Daulatram's humiliation, Ashok, Nikki's Bengali lover, appears on the scene with his inherited box of jewellery and offers it to the bridegroom's father. Accepting the jewellery, the father agrees to let the marriage ceremony continue.

But by now Daulatram's faith in his clan and in provincial ties is completely shaken, and ordering the Punjabi bridegroom and his party to leave the place he offers Nikki's hand to Ashok. Meanwhile, Janki is discovered to be alive by Subramaniam and to be South Indian by Daulatram. The picture ends with two happy inter-provincial marriages.

Lord Krishna was a great guy for girls. He took them on at all ages. The young ones grew old in his presence and the old ones often crawled on their fours. The guy was a magician of maidens and kept as many as 16,000 crazy ones busy with his antics. Let us see what new fairy tales Shahu Modak is telling Nirupa Roy, who knows quite a few tales already, in "Dwarikadheesh", a mythological entertainer.

GOOD DIRECTION

In spite of the screenplay being a little erratic, as for instance in not always concentrating on the satire and in accommodating some rather crude and too incredible incidents and some comedy which has nothing to do with the theme, the picture is generally cleverly directed and competently produced. In the ultimate analysis, it succeeds eminently in providing entertainment and in baring the stupidity of parochial attitudes in our life.

The production values are a good deal above average. Sets are quite good. Photography is generally efficient. Sound is well recorded. The dialogue serves the purpose of providing humour and making the theme clear, but the sting of the satire could have been made more telling. The lyrics are usual stuff. The music is pleasant but no song seems to carry the lilt necessary for popularity. The direction on the whole is a difficult job pretty well done.

From the players, Vyjayantimala as Janki acts very well, dances exquisitely and looks slimmer and therefore prettier. Kishore as Anand is as usual good and bubbling in gay scenes but looks uncomfortable when called upon to strike serious notes. Nazir Hussein and Nana Palsikar are effective as the respective fathers of Anand and Janki. Jabeen as Nikki and Prabhu Dayal as her Bengali lover do amateurish work, the latter looking particularly awkward. Dhumal as the South Indian servant provides some good laughs, while Radhakishen as the Punjabi grocer also does well. From the rest, Mirza Musharraf is tolerable in an inconsequential role.

In fine, "New Delhi" is a picture which greatly entertains and while doing so unobtrusively provokes thought. It is a fine example of purposeful screen entertainment and deserves to be seen by every Indian.

NEW DELHI

Producers: **De Lux Films**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story & Screenplay: **Inder Raj Anand, Radhakishen, Mohan Sehgal**
Dialogue: **Inder Raj Anand, Radhakishen**
Lyrics: **Shailendra, Hasrat**
Music: **Shankar and Jaikishan**
Photography: **K. A. Kapadia**
Audiography: **R. G. Pushalkar**
Cast: **Vyjayantimala, Kishore, Jabeen, Radhakishen, Nazir Hussein, Nana Palsikar, etc.**
Released At: **Roxy, Bombay**
Date of Release: **14th September 1956**

Directed By:
MOHAN SEHGAL

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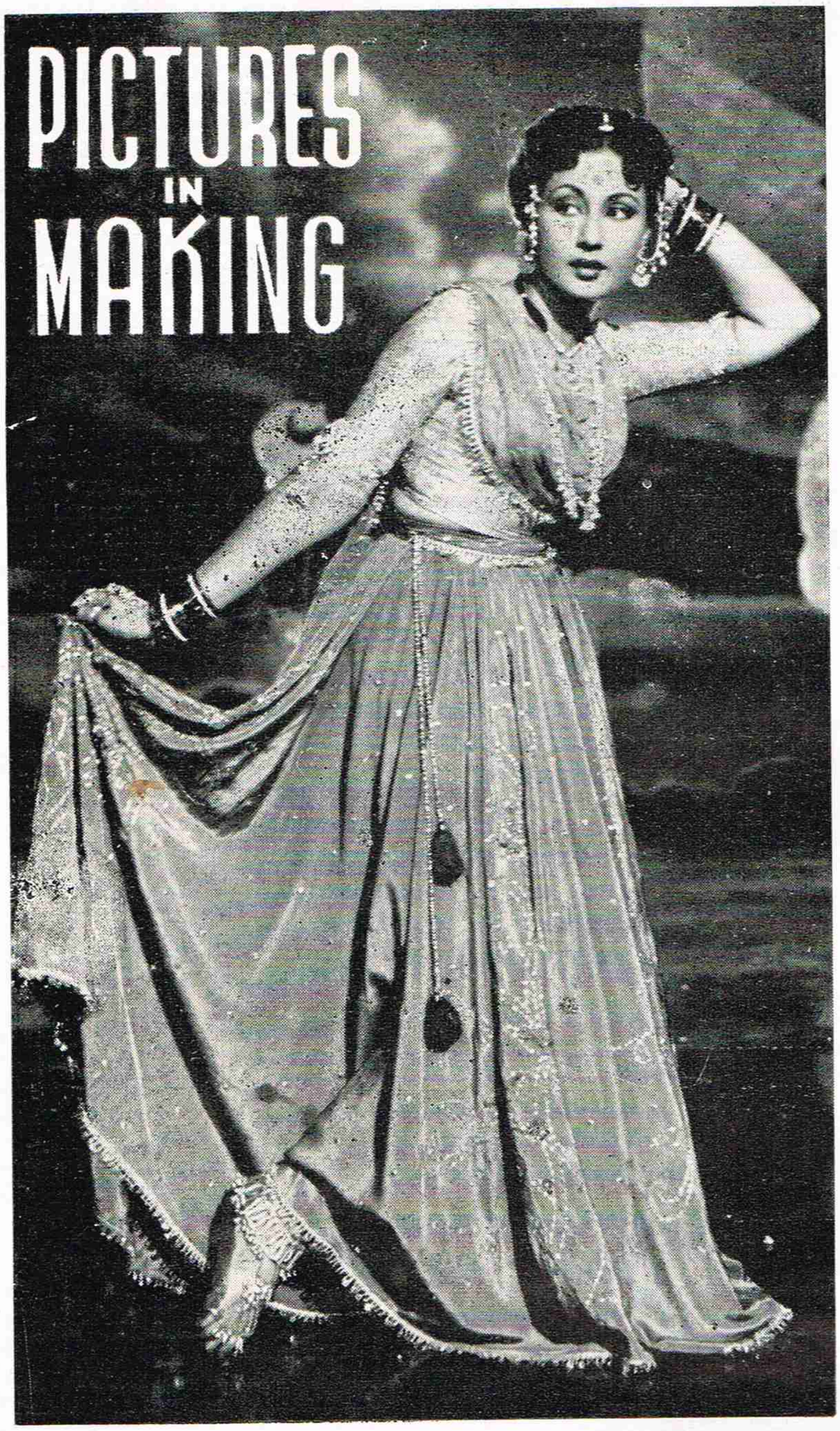


There is a magic moment without inhibitions in which we get a glimpse of the hidden charms of this girl. The screen lost a great artiste when this girl found a man to protect her. Meet Meena Kumari in "Naya Andaz" a romantic tale of song and dance.

"Aasha", Raman's Bilingual Entertainer, Makes Rapid Progress—"Chori Chori" Delights Bombay Audiences—Producer-director Mehboob Goes Outdoors To Igatpuri For "Mother India"—"Angulimala" Becomes A Gevacolour Classic—Muhurt Of "Sohni Mahiwal" Performed—"Sone Ki Chidiya" Teams Nutan And Balraj Sahni Again.

RAMAN PRODUCTIONS
(Bombay)

Producer-director M. V. Raman completed the picturization of one dance of pretty Vyjayantimala in Gevacolour at the Mehboob Studios. This single sequence alone cost the producer a lakh of rupees, so one can well imagine what amount the entire picture would require, considering that there are still two more Gevacolour dances to be filmed. Anyway, "Aasha" is planned on stunningly lavish lines with a box-office formula and is bound to succeed. "Aasha" in Hindi stars Vyjayantimala and Kishore, supported by Pran, Naina, Raj Mehra, Minoo Mumtaz, Lalita Pawar, Om Prakash, Randhir, etc. while the Tamil version includes Vyjayantimala, Nageshwara Rao, S. Manohar, Kumudini, Sarangpani, Kamini and Javar Sitaraman. Music direction is by C. Ramchandra and S. M. Subbiah for the Hindi and Tamil versions respectively.

THAI INFORMATION SERVICE
(Bombay)

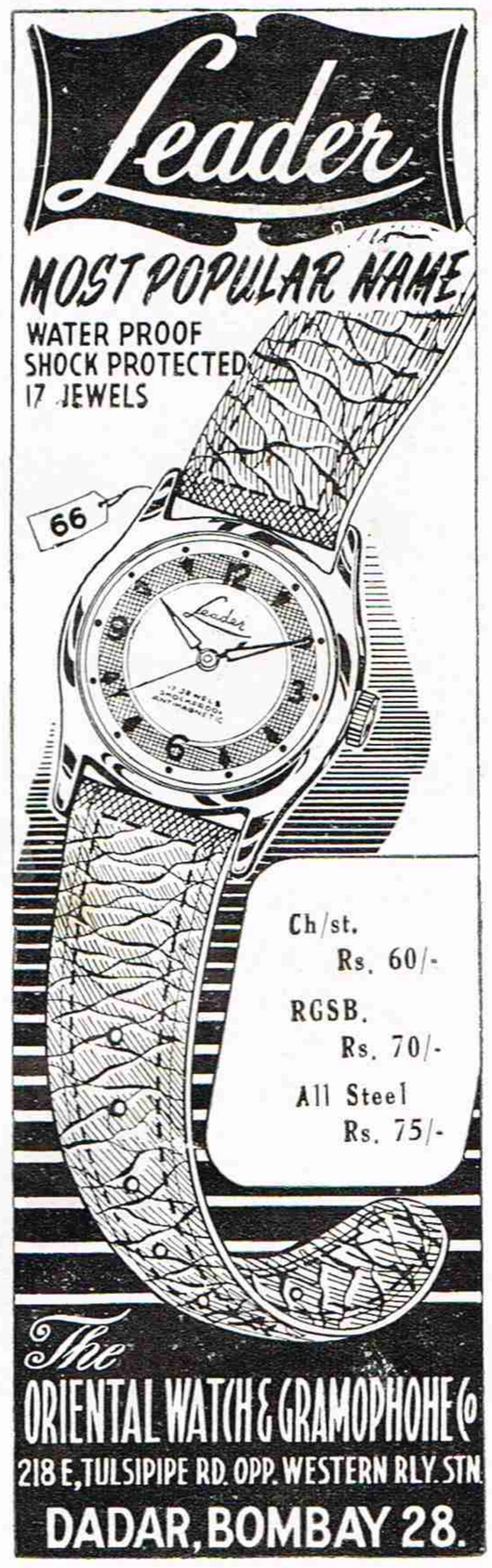
It is not often that purposeful pictures are produced. "Angulimala", produced by the Thai Information Service, is happily one such and with Vijay Bhatt of "Ram Rajya" fame directing it at the Mehboob Studios we hope that it will become a memorable one. "Angulimala" is the stirring story of a bandit, played by Bharat Bhooshan, who gives up his old way of life under the influence of Gautam Buddha and takes to the philosophy of 'Panchshila'. The whole film is in Gevacolour and has authentic sets, costumes and atmosphere of the Buddhist period brought to life by our popular art director Kanu Desai. Anil Biswas has taken particular care to select suitable music in keeping with the Buddhist period. The dialogue has been specially supervised by Monk Bhadant Anand Kaushalayan, a well-known Buddhist scholar, while Shri Thongyoo Vidyabanich, the managing director of Thai Information Service, a devout Buddhist himself, is sparing no pains to make "Angulimala" a beautiful document of Buddhism. "Angulimala" will be ready for release in March 1957.

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

"Chori Chori" starring Nargis and Raj Kapoor was released at four Bombay cinemas—Regal, Novelty, Jai Hind and Rivoli simultaneously on 11th October where it is delighting audiences because of its fast-moving story. Inspired by that Hollywood hit "Roman Holiday", "Chori Chori" depicts the adventures of a millionaire's daughter who falls in love with a journalist. A special attraction of "Chori Chori" is the well-executed puppet dance that brings forth spontaneous claps from the audience. AVM seems to be in luck all the time with one hit following another and probably "Chori Chori" may even beat "Bhai Bhai" in box-office collections. At the studios, Producer Meiyappan has completed more than half of "Miss Mary", a rollicking comedy starring Meena Kumari, R. Ganesh and Kishore with Jamuna, Om Prakash, Achala, and Jagdish Sethi lending fine support. The children's film, "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke", is shaping up well in the hands of Santoshi, and will be soon ready for release. Producer Meiyappan has signed up director-actor Raja Paranjape for his next social. This picture will go on the sets shortly.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS
(Bombay)

For ceaseless untiring effort it is difficult to find a man to equal Producer-director Mehboob, who has been shooting his classic "Mother India" for the last one year. During the month, some beautiful outdoor scenery was



captured at Igatpuri by cameraman Faredoon Irani to make "Mother India" a lyrical poem. Never before has Gevacolour been so well used as in "Mother India" where every frame is conceived with art and emotion. This peasant tale stars Nargis in the main role giving her the utmost scope for her histrionic talent. Raj Kumar plays Nargis' husband while Sunil Dutt and Rajendra Kumar are cast as the two sons of Nargis. Some of the tunes by Naushad are reported to be extremely attractive. "Paisa Hi Paisa", directed by Mehrish and starring Mala Sinha, Shakila and Kishore Kumar, was released at the Liberty, Bombay, on October 5 and seems to have been liked immensely by the masses.

KISHENDAS CHABRA & CO. (Bombay)

Filmindia Corporation's "Sone Ki Chidiya" has made steady progress. This sentimental tale teams charming Nutan and Balraj Sahni once again after their last success in "Seema" and has Talat Mahmood and Pratima Devi in important roles. Director Shaheed Lateef is trying his best to combine purpose with entertainment in "Sone Ki Chidiya". O. P. Nayyar, the creator of popular hybrid tunes, has composed quite a few catchy tunes. Kishendas Chabra & Co. control the world rights of "Sone Ki Chidiya" as also of "Baarish", "Changez Khan" and "Karigar".

BOMBAY FILMS (Bombay)

Even before the completion of Producer Savak Vacha's "Yahudi Ki Larki", a thrilling drama adapted from Agha Hashar Kashmiri's drama of the same name, everyone in the film industry seems to be talking about the picture. Starring Dilip Kumar in an entirely new kind of role and pretty Meena Kumari as his prize, "Yahudi Ki Larki" has the complete box-office ingredients. The cast, apart from Dilip and Meena Kumari, consists of Sohrab Modi, Baby Naaz, Romi, Anwar, Nigar, etc. Music is by Shankar and Jaikishan.

GEMINI PICTURES CIRCUIT (Madras)

Producer Narayana Iyengar's "Devta" starring Anjali Devi, Vyjayantimala, Ganesh and Kamla is running well at the Swastik, Bombay. "Devta" is the usual fantasy with a simple moral but containing enough thrills and suspense to sustain audience interest. No wonder then it has turned out to be a money-spinner for the producer and the distributor.

BIMAL ROY PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

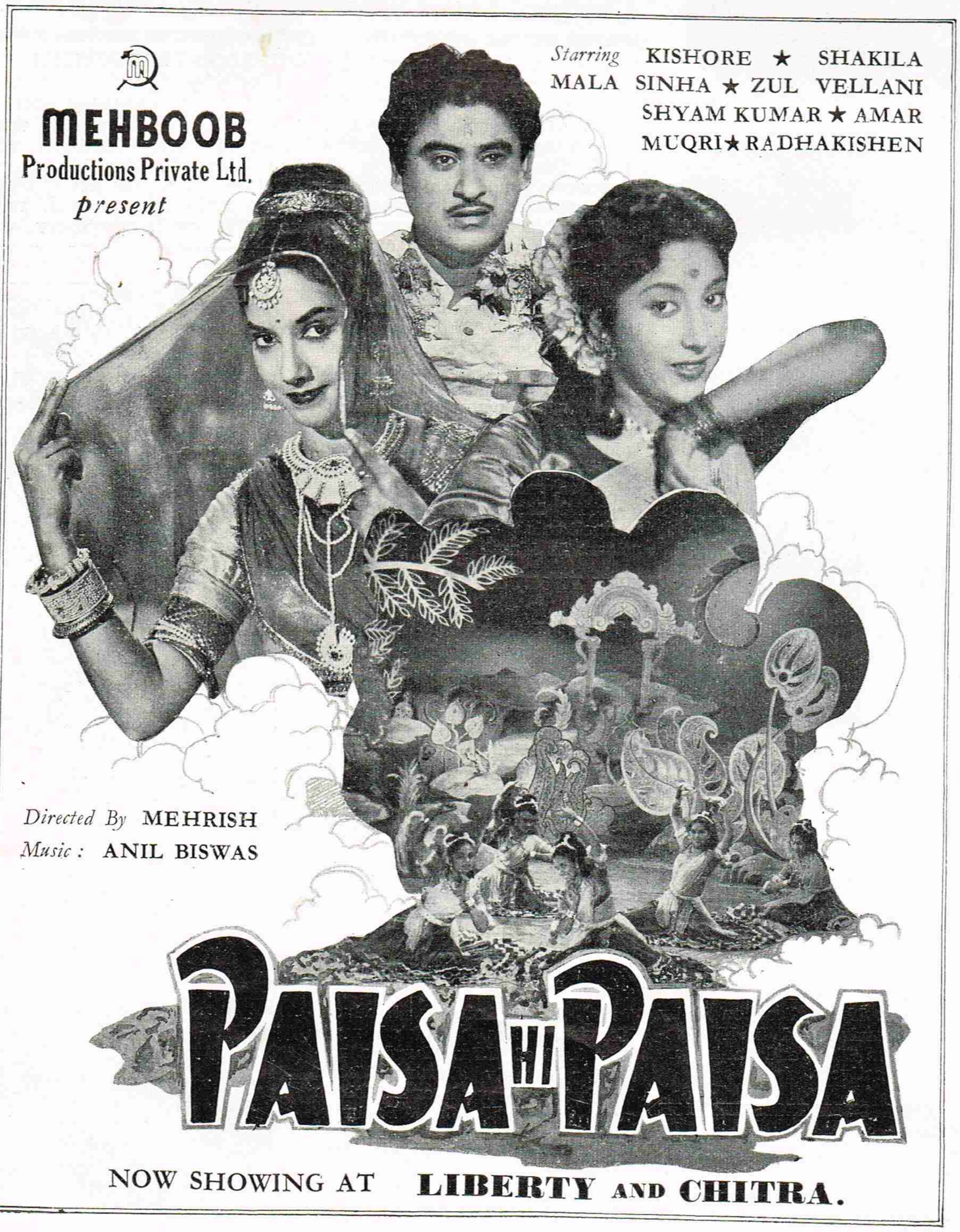
Though the joint family system in the cities is fast becoming a thing of the past, in the villages it is still a reality giving rise to a hundred different domestic situations of gravity and hilarity. "Parivar" directed by Asit Sen is one such exciting drama which is well on way to completion. There is an array of stars to enliven "Parivar", some of them being Kishore, Usha Kiran, Sabita Chatterjee, Durga Khote, Jairaj, Agha, Anwar, Bipin Gupta, Sajjan, Dhumal, etc. Producer-director Bimal Roy is now busy finalizing the script of "Madhumati" a tender love story starring popular actor Dilip Kumar.

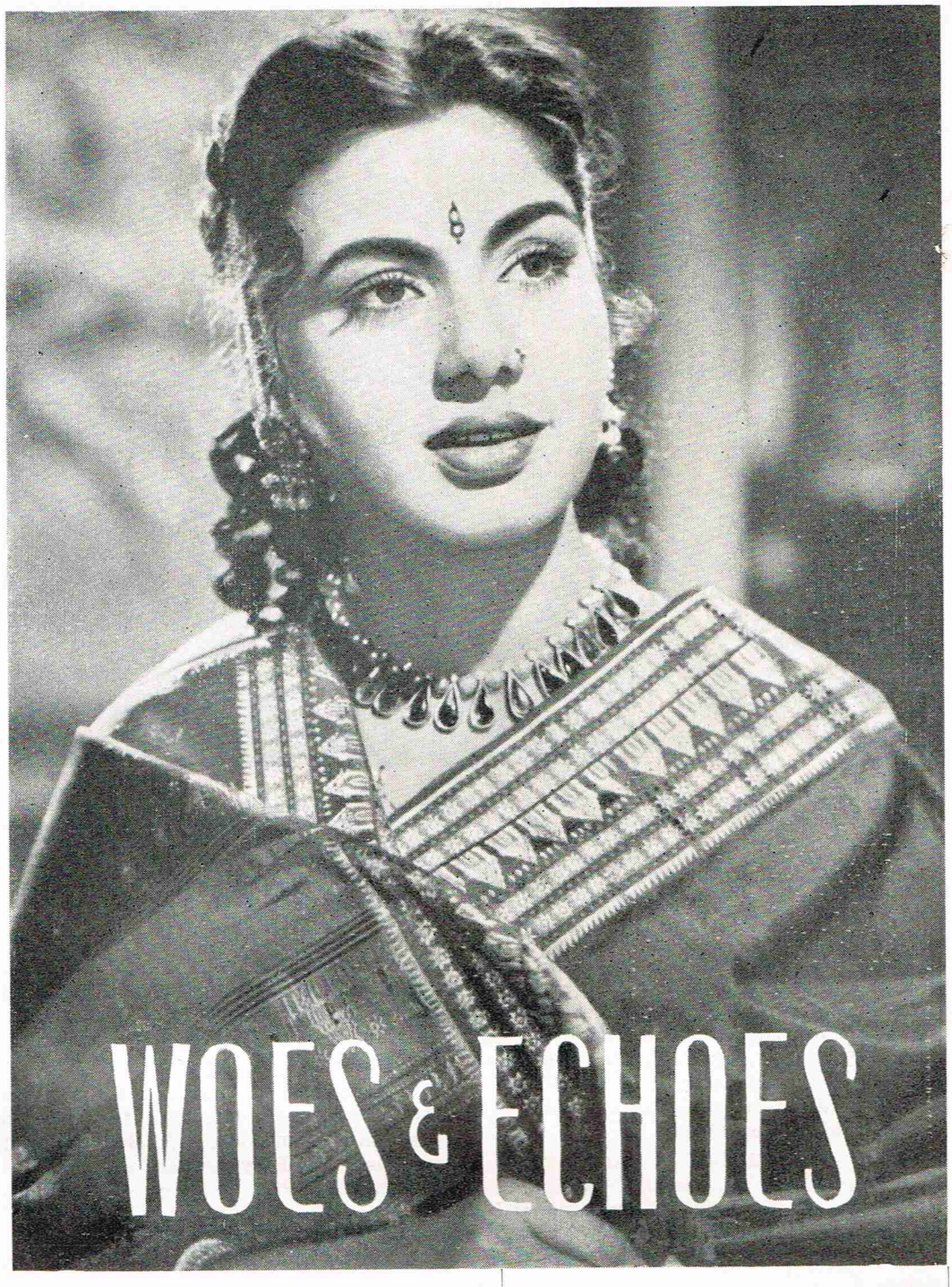
SHRIRANGAM (Bombay)

"Dekh Kabira Roya", a purposeful social with a provocative title and starring Ameeta, Anita Guha, Shubha Khote, Diljeet, Jawahar Kaul and Anoop Kumar and directed by Amiya Chakrabarty, is reported to have become an interesting picture. Amiya knows the box-office formula too well, having only recently produced "Seema" which clicked at the box-offices. Yet another highly sensitive theme is being tackled in "Kath Putli" by Amiya, simultaneously. Quite a few sequences of "Kath Putli" are ready with Vyjayantimala in the feminine lead.

ANAND FILMS (Bombay)

Producers Daulatram and I. M. Anand have nearly completed "Talaash" starring Ashok Kumar, Bina Rai, Ameeta, Jagirdar, Yakub, etc. With direction by Vishram Bedekar, "Talaash" is likely to become an out-of-the-way picture containing food for the intellectuals and entertainment for the masses.





MOTHER DHARMARAJ EXPLAINS

"It is impolite and in the worst of taste to have written an editorial attacking the fundamental beliefs of a religion which is in the minority and of having made damaging, untrue and sweeping statements against the whole community. If individuals have been at fault the courts and the laws are there to prevent abuses. No one in his senses would call the Hindu Mahasabha a community of murderers because Godse murdered Gandhiji. Yet the whole Christian community is accused falsely because one or two perhaps abused their rights.

"Herein lies the proof that the followers of Jesus Christ do not believe in the sword—that an article as the one you have written attributing wrong motives to missionaries and questioning the deity of Christ, has not led to a riot because we believe in One who did not advocate the use of the sword.

"The meaning and use of the word "cross" seem to perplex you. The word "cross" must have been in common terminology when the common method of punishing criminals was to nail them to the cross. The "cross" is also figuratively used to denote tribulation and suffering. Even taking it in the literal sense we believe that Jesus could foresee the cross because He was the Son of God. In fact, references to His death can be found in the Old Testament (Isaiah 53 chapter). You seem to use the words "sword" and "cross" as synonymous terms. They are not. While the person with the sword kills, the person bearing the cross suffers to be killed. Jesus, when He was taken before Pilate uttered not a word. Pilate wanted to set Him free as "he found no fault in Him" and yet He allowed Himself to be led to be crucified. How can His followers believe in violence or the use of the sword? Figuratively speaking we are warriors against spiritual evils—pride, hate and greed etc., but the weapons as described by Paul, are, faith, salvation and prayer.

"Schools, hospitals and philanthropic institutions are the result and not a weapon of Christianity. The words of Jesus on the last judgment, "What you have done unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me" have caused people to go in His name to do good to those who are poor in wordly goods. "By their fruits ye shall know them"—and what are the fruits of Christianity? a) a wild warrior race as the Britons were before the advent of Christianity became peace-loving (Ref. Arthur Bryants' "History of England") b) jail reforms are instituted by Elizabeth Fry (a zealous Christian) c) slavery is abolished and innumerable other reforms are made because of the labours of people transformed by the power of Christ d) Cheshire Homes are set up, etc.

"True, there have been abuses and dissensions, and corruption has often reared its ugly head in the Church, as much as persecution from without. But the power and spirit of God have worked, and people have arisen to preach against it and so we get reformers and revivalists—Luther, Wesley, Evangeline Booth—all of them preaching against formality in religion.

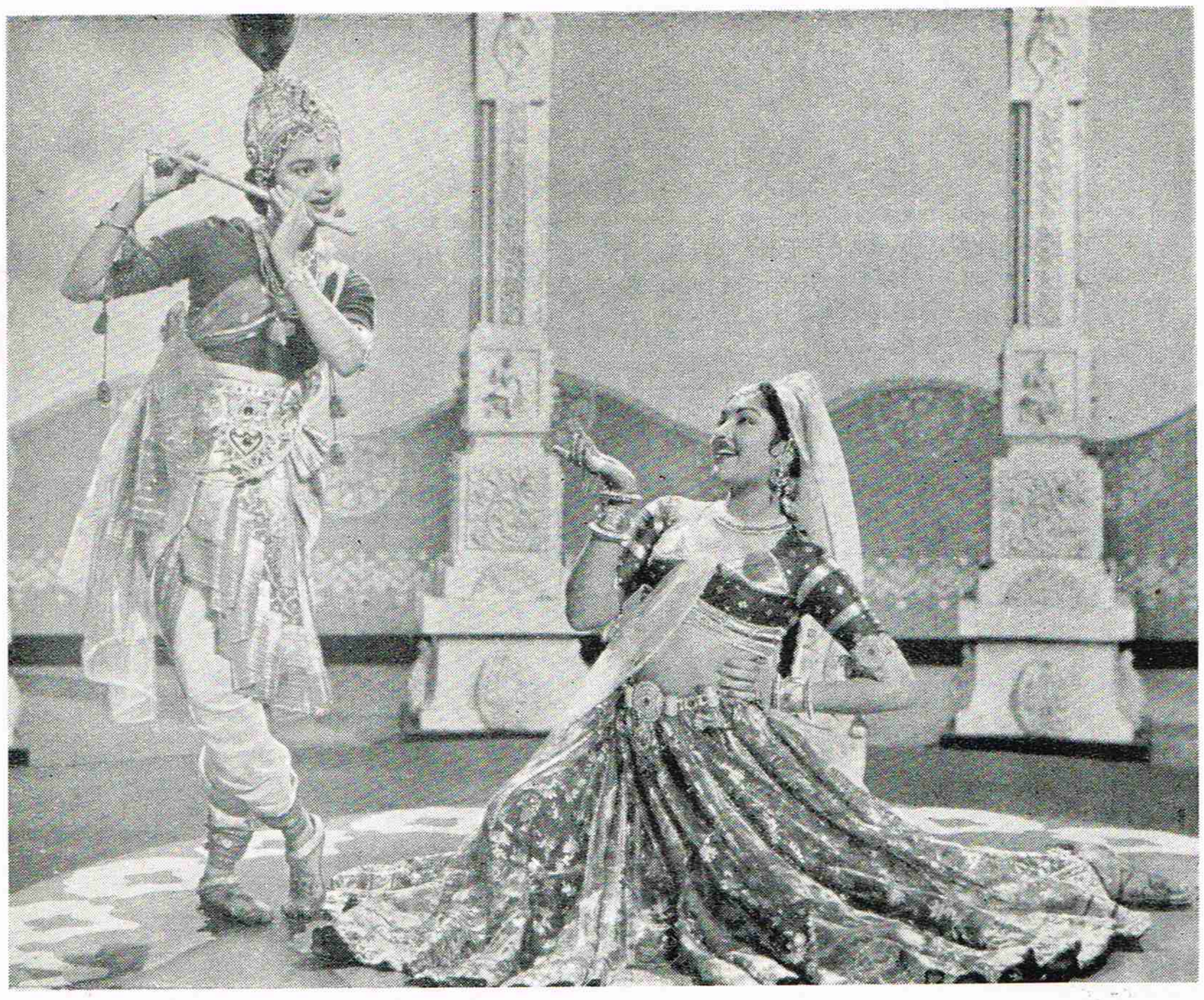
"The Church has also been subjected to persecution by the Roman Emperors by some of the English laws but out of all this emerged something finer.

Letters submitted for this section should not have more than 25 lines. Rs.5/- will be paid for every letter published in this section.

The eternal bride! Some women have faces which remind you of brides and bridegrooms. One feels like painting and decorating them all the time. Nimmi has a bride's enthusiastic look in "Basant Bahar", a romantic entertainer.

"Politics and Religion: When Jesus Christ said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's", He silenced the mouths of the people who even in His times wanted to confuse religion and politics and perhaps to incite Him to help them in the overthrow of the Roman domination.

"A good Christian is a better patriot for he loves his fellowmen better.



Krishna was the greatest philanderer in the history of man. Wherever he saw a woman, he took out his magic flute and made her dance to his tune. Nowadays Christianity has taken all the kick out of the old flute and men have to keep dancing around one wife only. Anyway what we cannot do in life we can do in motion pictures and still make a few women dance to our moods and tunes. Watch Asha and Vyjayantimala reviving the ancient romantic days in "Aasha", a thrilling romance produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

"As to the relation between culture and religion, one cannot be justified in thinking that all the groups in India today will have the same view of Indian culture. Many equate Indian culture with Hinduism. Some do not. In free and independent India this difference of outlook should be respected and safeguarded.

"St. Paul exhorts the Christians to "obey the powers that be" and in all the Churches prayers are made for the President and the rulers of the nation.

"It is because of deep-rooted prejudice against the Christians that when a person who is a Christian takes part in any political party his activities are viewed with suspicion.

"It is time that such prejudices should go. It is openly admitted that Christians are held in contempt and associated with cheap ways of living, laxity of morals and foreign sympathies—all of which are grossly untrue and unfair.

"Foreign Missionaries: Christian countries like the U.S.A. and Britain have tolerated Ingersoll and Bertrand Russell who have attacked the fundamentals of Christianity. The implications of the present official attitude to missionaries would be better appreciated if for instance, the U.S.A. or Britain regarded the Ramakrishna Mission or Hindu preachers and their work unfavourably. Evangelical work should be permitted or prohibited on a reciprocal basis.

"If the aim of the missionaries is political, there would be no need for them to preach in England or U.S.A. But the great revivalists like Billy Graham are as active in those countries as they are in other countries. They are as greatly concerned about the Christian countries (Hyde Park in England has always many Christian preachers amongst the many speakers there) because their aim is to revive men spiritually and they are interested in quality and not, as you say, in quantity.

"There is much talk about foreign aid. When a country which is poor is not ashamed to accept barrels of milk powder, butter-oil and other aids for other purposes, what harm is there, in accepting their aid for the churches?

"Then there arises a question—why is a majority gravely upset by the activities of a ridiculous minority when the necessity of being fair is greater?

"Secularity of the state: The state claims to be secular but religious rites of a particular religion are performed when dams are declared open; and institutions are opened to the chanting of slokas and mantras.

"Conversions: The desire to convert springs from the same unselfishness which makes a person want to share the good things he has with others. Conversion can never be forcible and will never last. I can only tell you about the conversion of an Honours Graduate (of a high caste and of a wealthy family) who had nothing to gain but everything to lose by becoming a Christian. He has given up a lucrative job to share with others the joy he has experienced. I can also remind you of Sadhu Sunder Singh who loved his Hindu brethren more after his conversion and suffered much tribulation but enjoyed great peace.

"Two points about conversion: 1) Every person is allowed to preach and if anyone is upset about the spread of Christianity he should only hasten to preach his own. We read of many who are greatly attracted by Hinduism—Huxley, Maugham, etc. 2) In these days of enlightenment when even villagers talk politics and very knowingly of the atom bomb it is fantastic to speak of mass conversions.

"Then why cannot the symbol of the cross be put up in any place if it is allowed by the authorities and permitted by law? Do we not see tokens and symbols of other religions all over the place?

"Deity of Christ: One more point I would like to tell you about Christ Himself. He far surpasses any picture of Him you see through the best of His followers

When women get into wrong costumes they lose what little they have. Both the girls seem to have worn their dresses after a good meal. And you can see the meal too. Wonder what Usha Kiran and Manorama are about in "Ayodhyapati", a mythological yarn.

and anyone who seeks Him will know Christ. The best that His followers have done is only a part of all the goodness He is.

"Yes, He was born in the form of a man and He went about doing good, healing the people and preaching the gospel of the love of God. Yet He claimed to be the Son of God. He forgave sins. He said, "I am the light of the world".

"If a man were to say these words we will call him a lunatic, a fiend or a megalomaniac. So we are faced with a frightening alternative. He is not just a Teacher. He is either a lunatic or God. Spit on Him, crucify Him anew by calling Him mad, for, the only other alternative is to worship Him.

"I hope you will have the fairness and the graciousness to publish this letter."

CUTTACK. **Mrs. L. Dharmaraj.**

A CONVERT'S CULTURE

"My attention was drawn to your article "Footprints of Christ" in the September issue of "filmindia".

"I am at a loss to understand why such a vicious attack on Christianity should be published in a film magazine, unless we understand it to mean that the 'facts' of the article have as much historical value as the 'facts' we usually see in films. Read in conjunction with the notorious Niyogi Report the article would seem to be part and parcel of a campaign set afoot by certain fanatics to vilify Christianity and Christian missionaries, in the hope that such a campaign will lead to the expulsion of the latter and the extinction of the former. Whether your attack is in keeping with India's much-vaunted 'tolerance' and 'broad-mindedness' is for you to judge.

"There are more lies, half-truths, perversions of the truth, malignant insinuations and historical blunders packed together in your unscholarly rigmarole than can be found in the most rabid anti-Christian writing—a magnificent display of ignorance, malice and fiction.

"There is nothing original about your attack except your stupid plagiarism from contaminated sources. There is no sense of fairness and no sense of history shown anywhere in the article. It occurs to me that perhaps you are a linear descendant of those Brahmins whom St. Francis Xavier, as quoted by you, castigated for their mendacity: his description certainly fits you to a T. That is real patriotism! I congratulate you!"

Bishop's House,
DIBRUGARH. **R. Dasgupta.**

[The attention of the readers is drawn to the difference, in tone, language and approach, between the two letters by the two Christians: Mrs. L. Dharmaraj from Cuttack and Mr. R. Dasgupta, M.A., from Bishop's House, Dibrugarh. Writing from the Bishop's House, possibly a local centre of proselytism, Mr. Dasgupta probably feels about the problem more intensely and uses almost un-Christian language in the defence of Christianity. The point is whether the Christianity which Mr. Dasgupta has imbibed—as revealed by his letter—is at all worth defending. Mr. Dasgupta should remember the first tenet of Christianity that no one can be a good Christian without learning tolerance first—the Cross itself being the eternal symbol of that virtue. The editor.]

THANKS

"I read with deep interest your spirited leader "Footprints of Christ". Though a Christian myself, I always disapprove the methods adopted by the Roman Catholic Missionaries with regard to conversion. The editorial was a refreshing breeze of intellectual honesty and political objectivity. Your references to several books on the subject unlearned by most Christians were very appropriate. It is my fervent desire that all the Christian congregation of the world would read and believe all that you have written in a free and impartial manner."

MANNARGUDI. **D. William Moses.**

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Arabs are lucky guys. Being Muslims they have the choice of four wives and being Arabs they have the mood for a hundred slave girls. The one who is posing here is worthy of the harem of Haroun Al Raschid. Let us see what Padmini is about in the midst of Arabs in "Quaidi", a thrilling entertainer.

AFTER FIVE MILLION VOTES

"Your highly stimulating and timely editorial "Footprints of Christ" in the September issue has come as another bombshell to the missionary world already embarrassed, agape and aghast at the Niyogi Report. It is one of the memorable editorials to come from your gifted pen and as a brilliant essay, ruthlessly objective and well-conceived with a historical perspective, it will be remembered for a long time to come. With effect at once devastating, it depicts fascinatingly not only the birth, rise, later history of Christianity and the downright distortion by its fanatic pedlars who made forcible conversion their sole article of faith but also their crude and yet subtle methods of miracles which have sown religious discord among the peoples. Your main theme to spotlight the anti-national, offensive activities of these missionaries should go a long way to awaken the lethargy of our secular Government to deal with a situation which is fraught with potential dangers to the religious amity of our people and security of our nation.

"No sooner was the Niyogi Report published than it was characterized by the Indian Catholic Church as anti-Christian, biased, partial and intolerant, its conclusions unfounded and its recommendations dangerous. It is, however, wrong to say that the activities complained of are unknown in most parts of our country. Even honest Christians, if they will care to search their hearts, will not deny the truth that the motive of conversion through force, fraud or illicit means has ever been predominant with the missionaries. Why then raise a great deal of hue and cry regarding the Report which contains only observations and statements of facts? All enlightened Indians, therefore, will in all admiration endorse the wisdom and veracity of your lofty writing which throws ample light on the soundness of the Niyogi Report.

"The Report should serve as a warning that in free India any anti-national activities from whatever quarters they may come will not be tolerated. Your editorial should serve as a signal to our Government which is basking in the brilliance of its secularity to be alert and vigilant to protect religious freedom of other faiths which is perpetually interfered with by the merchants of Christianity. We can have religious freedom without conversion. Religious freedom does not mean the right for indiscriminate conversions.

"It is high time we realized our mistake and in order to protect our culture, amended our Constitution along a more rational basis, so as to prohibit further proselytism. In this regard it will be interesting to know that even the Catholic State of Portugal has imposed legislative restrictions on foreign missions. Will our secular Government take a clue from this?"

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

FOR MEAN ENDS

"Your editorial "Footprints of Christ" in the September issue was a solid, sincere and unbiased historical document which deserves careful study and pondering over by Christians and others alike. After describing the goodness and moral stature of Jesus who died on the Cross for his faith and idealism you have traced the subsequent history of Christianity which spread and promoted little of the original teachings of its founder, but became actually an instrument of evil and inhumanity in the hands of the Church.

"The record of the Church and Christian proselytism in India has been one of the blackest in the history of inhumanity, especially of the Portuguese at Goa who killed, burnt and mutilated hundreds of Muslims and Hindus and forcibly converted thousands to their religion of fire and sword. The methods, miracles and tricks through which the missionaries have been and are carrying on their proselytizing activities, of which you have given a de-

Seeing rainbows is a chronic complaint with young women. In every shirt they see a hero. Let us see what Kum Kum is fancying in "Commander", an exciting love tale.

tailed account in your editorial, are most despicable and irreligious. Even the good work done by them loses much of its value considering that the means are mean and the end is ignoble. The present aims and motives of some of the foreign missionaries to breed traitors, create chaos and build up a militant minority to maintain the supremacy of Europe pose a problem of quite a serious and dangerous character to the independence, peace and unity of our country at least in the long run, if not right now.

"Secularity is a great principle which must be upheld to the utmost but the security of the State cannot be jeopardised for any ideal, however enlightened. Our secularity will not be lost or even tarnished if the Government should take any necessary steps to restrict those of the activities of the missionaries which are directed against our nation and our people. True Christianity will always be welcome in India as it has been hitherto and will receive every help and encouragement from the Government and the non-Christians. The teachings of Jesus are not alien or antagonistic to the 'dharma' of this ancient land. Indeed, the Hindus and others of the present day, with our low ebb of morality and virtues, would do well to follow them in our private and public life.

"But the cheating by the Church of the poor and ignorant Indian masses must be opposed and checked through proper measures. There will be nothing anti-Christian or fanatical in such a move. Our Government has passed many legislations opposed by orthodox Hindus and has denounced and suppressed Hindu communalism wherever it has raised its head. There will therefore be nothing wrong or discriminatory if it should adopt suitable measures to check some of the missionaries' activities. Secularity does not give the liberty to offend the religious susceptibilities of others and undermine the security of a State. Further it should not be forgotten that our Constitution gives the right of practising, preaching and proselytising only to Indian nationals and not to outsiders. So even if we ban altogether the entry of foreign missionaries—an extreme measure which will never be taken—our secularity will not be destroyed. Let those who raise the cry of "Christianity in Danger" remember this important basic fact."

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

CHRISTIANISTAN

"Your editorial entitled, "Footprints of Christ", published in the September issue of "filmindia" goes once again to prove your impartiality and patriotism as a journalist, and which are sadly conspicuous by their absence among our secular, or better still, 'sterilized penwallas'. Really, Shri Patel, you deserve a Bharat Ratna (refuse it if the Government even thinks of honouring you) from your innumerable admirers.

"Every paragraph of this editorial is backed by definite quotations contrary to the usual generalizations made by some writers. The stark exposition of the ulterior motive of this expanding group of Christian 'Padrees' in trying to create a Christianistan within India, is sufficient to make their dead ones turn in their graves.

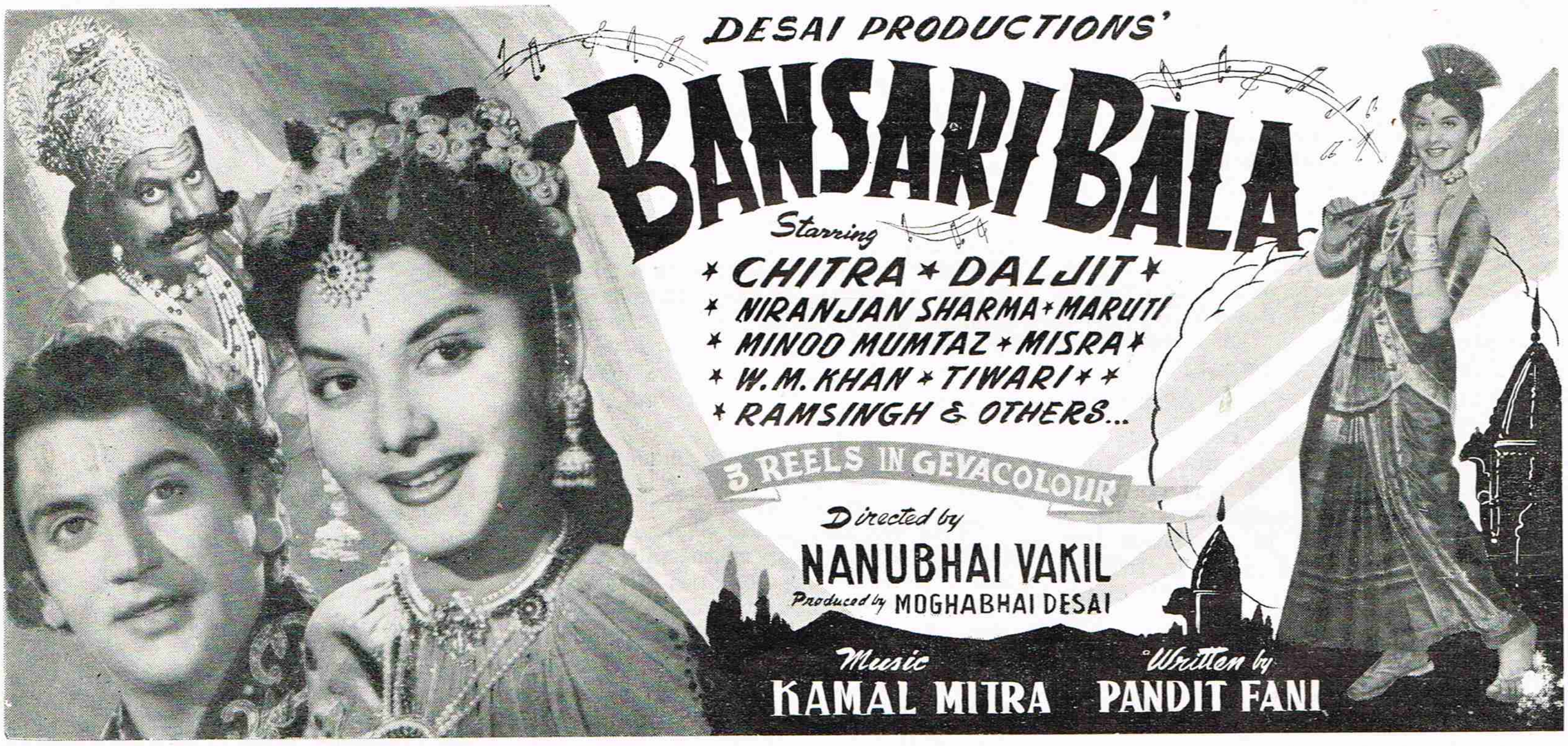
"Let us hope the Government is practical enough in accepting the learned conclusions."

ALLAHABAD. **H. N. Pandey.**

NEHRU vs NASSER

"Your leader "Footprints of Christ" in September "filmindia" will be long remembered as a landmark in the annals of Indian journalism and is worth its weight in gold. The excellent way you stripped open the mask under which these religious fanatics are taking resort is worth commending and the fine presentation of facts and figures so clearly and candidly is a feat in itself.

"Your timely exposure should serve as an eye-opener to the Government and make them see the grave realities of the day and of course, it is up to the people to read the writing on the wall and take a cue from your valuable article and guard themselves against the dangers ahead. Here,



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A mother-in-law—why she might even be a mother—whatever she be—her wrinkled age has no patience with youth. Old women rarely remember the embarrassments of their own youth. Let us see what is the trouble between Pratima Devi and Nutan in "Sone-ki-Chidiya".

it may be recalled that the evil hand of foreign Christian missionaries who receive enormous foreign aid from the West and whose political and religious intentions are well-known, was manifest in many a national trouble, notably the Naga affair across our borders, threatening the very security of the State. But, will our Neros of New Delhi stop fiddling with the fate of our innocent masses? Will Nehru rise to the occasion and act, if not wholly at least partially, and tread in the footprints of his Cairo cavalier, Col. Nasser?"

KOTHAGUDIUM. **G. Annaji Rao.**

NOT CHRISTLESS

"Your daring and most studied article "Footprints of Christ" reminds me of an incident in which our neighbour—a Hindu boy—was encouraged to develop a love affair with a Christian girl. In the end the parents of the girl made him a new suit, took him secretly to the Church, convinced him, converted him and he was made to marry the girl.

"After a few days of marriage the girl left for Calcutta leaving her husband. When the parents of the boy came to know this, they kicked him out of the house. Now that poor boy is homeless, helpless, friendless, Godless and also wifeless."

MALKHER ROAD. **A. Srinivasulu.**

INDEED

"'Footprints of Christ' is a masterly presentation of historical facts which brings home the truth that after all said and done, the Christian missionaries in India are not so many 'angels' as they pretend to be. Your editorial with its thesis-like details and the all-pervading scholarly touch should serve as a silencing answer to those Christian Cardinals and Bishops who have been crying themselves hoarse over the Niyogi Report. After reading your unique article one can justifiably exclaim, 'Oh! religion what sins are not committed in thy name?'"

AJMER. **Suresh Chandra Sinha.**

WAIT AND SEE

"Your editorial in the September "filmindia" is a sharp slap on the face of those who support all the activities of Christian missionaries in India without any reservation. The statistics and figures given by you tell their own tale. Christ was truly a great man but those who have arrogated to themselves the right to preach his message have proved unworthy of that noble soul. A religion that is made to act as second fiddle to politics simply degrades itself before the bar of public opinion. Your searching article should make all the right-thinking Christians stop and ponder as to where their religion is being led by some over-zealous yet evil-minded missionaries. But then how to deal with people like Amrit Kaur and John Matthai?"

AJMER. **Prabhu Dayal.**

AFTER THE ELECTIONS

"Your leading article, "Footprints of Christ" in "filmindia" of September deserves to be engraved in letters of gold. This bold, forthright and scholarly thesis in which you lay bare the humbug of the missionary work and its shoddy and spurious nature, is a great service to Hinduism which is sought to be strangulated by the Christian missionary work in India. Strangely enough, Christianity has almost come to be equated with Westernisation and many literate Indians have the hazy notion that the religion of Christ was the cause of 'progress' made by the Westerners. Nobody stops to think how paradoxical it is that Christianity should indulge in fantastic pageantry in its show-off, condemning all the while in no uncertain terms the pagans and their colourful rituals. It is a trifle incongruous for the Christian missionaries to be iconoclasts when they have the temerity to exhibit the idols of their saints. You have done well in exposing their dirty tricks, treachery and fraud, all perpetrated in the name of their religion. This is a disease which if allowed to spread would destroy the whole fabric of our civilization and culture. Our secular government is all too ready to resent anything said in favour of

"You are hitting me below the belt and I'll hit you on the head." Women who live a life below the belt don't like to be told so. Meet Nargis—belt and blast—in "Chori Chori", a social entertainer of AVM.

Hinduism on the ground that it is 'communalism', while it is content to tolerate other religions striking deadly blows at our very roots. The first casualty of our secular policy would appear to be Hinduism.

"You must send copies of the article referred to, to the Prime Minister and others who can do something tangible in this matter. It is surely not enough to have appointed a Committee to go into the Christian missionary activity and received its report. Quick action on the report should be forthcoming if the great efforts of the Committee are to have any significance. You have taken up the noble task of dissecting the activities of the Christian Missions and analysing it threadbare. You must now continue the agitation until the Government takes appropriate action in the matter."

KARAIKUDI. **C. Rangarajan.**

MUSLIM BLACKMAIL

"It is the law of (Muslim) nature that truth about Islam hurts only in India and nowhere else in the world, not even when the truth is told outside India and then only repeated here. The book "Religious Leaders", written by Americans and printed and published in America fifteen years ago, has been read for so many years all over the world, including India and possibly Pakistan. Did any Muslim in India protest at the time? No. Did any Muslim even in Pakistan throw up his hands and shriek that Islam was in danger? Again, no. But after fifteen long years the book was almost exhumed and reprinted by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bombay. And lo and behold! Islam was in danger! The print didn't matter, but the reprint did. Why? Because the print had been in America but the reprint was in India, that is Bharat.

"In righteous wrath the Mussalman rose against the objectionable passages about Islam and the Prophet in the book. According to a report from Aligarh, students of the Muslim University took out a procession carrying an effigy of Governor Munshi, publicly beat it with shoes and thus burnt it amidst shouts of "Hindustan Murdabad" and "Pakistan Zindabad". Muslim M.P.'s ran to the Prime Minister and that, in the words of late Sardar Patel the "only nationalist Muslim in India", readily agreed with them that the book did contain very objectionable matter in the eyes of the faithful.

"And what did Munshi do, as Governor as well as General Editor of Vidya Bhavan Publications? What did he do about the Aligarh students who beat him with shoes, even in his effigy, when they belonged to the same province of which he was Governor? But let that pass. What did he do about the book as the General Editor of the House that reprinted it? Like a true-blue secularist he put his tail between his hind legs and ordered an immediate stop on the sale of the book. So far so bad. But a secularist must rush in where communalists fear to tread. So Munshi also promised suitable changes in the book. Now how can the editor of a reprint make changes or deletions in the original? Munshi alone knows, not even God.

"Unfortunately for Islam and the Prophet, neither in Governor Munshi's U.P. nor in Vidya Bhavan's Bombay, has the book been banned. So in secular, haste Bihar's Shri Krishna Sinha came forward and proscribed the book. With a sigh of relief I thank this saviour of Islam.

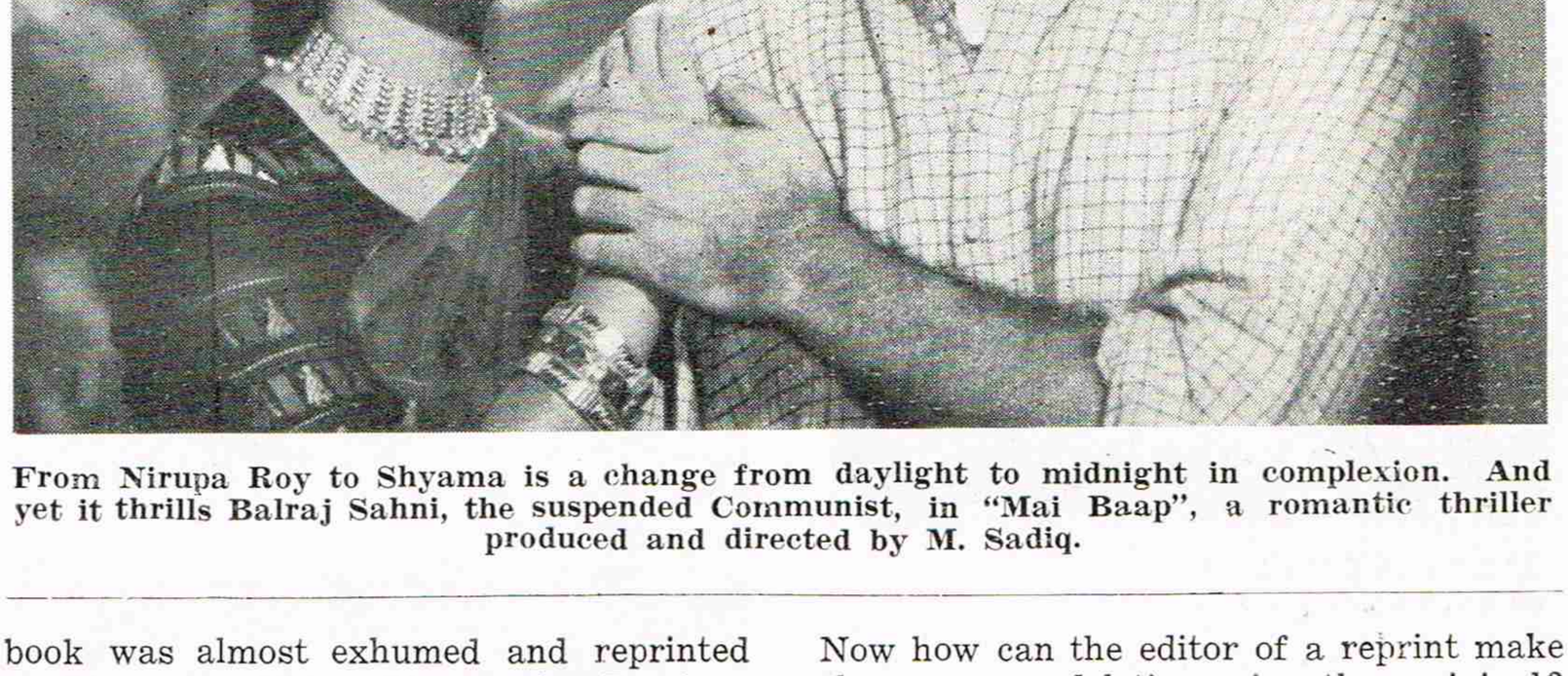
"But in the midst of all this frantic Islam-saving, I am pricked by a small doubt, how might the original western authors react to all this? Those authors have precedents in Will Durant and H. G. Wells. Will Durant could not take Islam seriously, but one has yet to be taken to task for irreligious levity. And when H. G. Wells told some unsavoury home-truths about the Prophet in his "Outline of World History" there was the usual Muslim hue and cry. But what was Wells' reply? As he was neither a Congressman nor a secularist he flatly refused to make changes in what he had written. Any change, he said, would mean falsification of history.

"Wells and Durant on the one hand—Munshi and Sinha on the other—truth on the one hand and secular politics on the other."

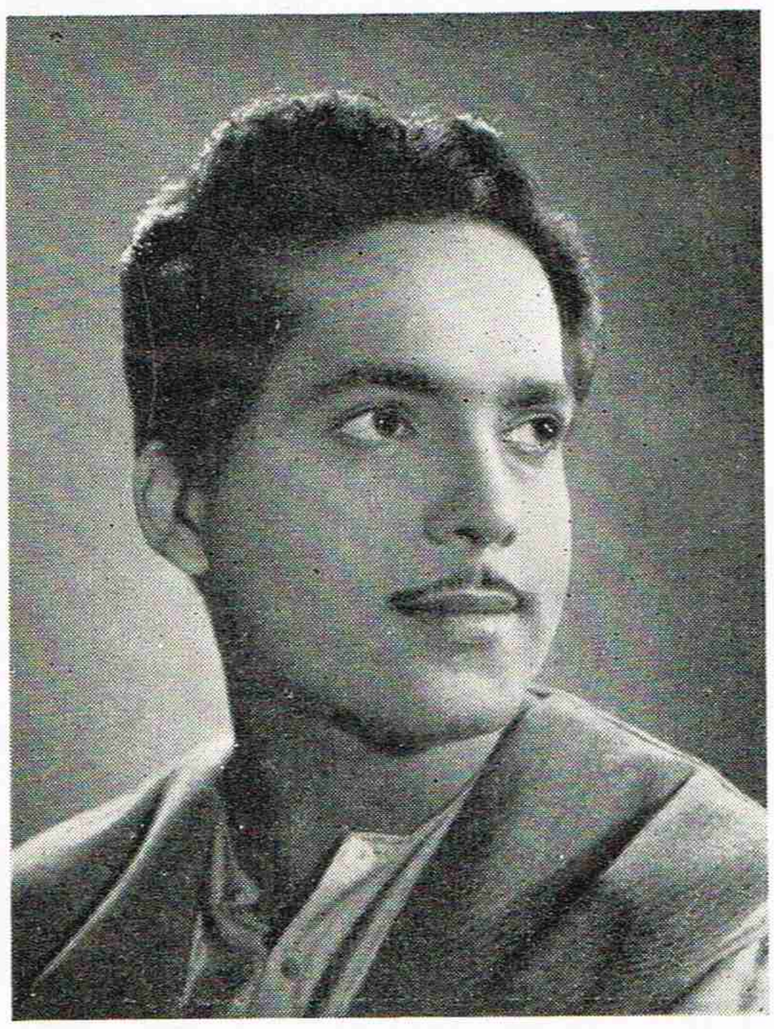
BOMBAY. **Dharamdas.**

NEHRU'S EVER-READY TONGUE

"Hooliganism with communal colour has again raised its ugly head countrywide merely over publishing a book titled "Liv-



From Nirupa Roy to Shyama is a change from daylight to midnight in complexion. And yet it thrills Balraj Sahni, the suspended Communist, in "Mai Baap", a romantic thriller produced and directed by M. Sadiq.



This one is a "noo" one flirting with his fortune in the films. His name is Ashim Kumar—we don't have anything less than 'Kumars' in our film industry—and he makes his first appearance in "Parivar" produced by Bimal Roy Productions.

"What does Dilip Kumar see in you to chase you so?" asks Sohrab Modi. Meena Kumari seems to say, "Perhaps he chases what he doesn't see". That is more likely, knowing Dilip as we do. Let us see what the old man is worried about in "Yahudi-ki-Larki", a dramatic tale produced by Savak Vacha.

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ing Biographies of Religious Leaders" by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

"This has been aggravated to a great degree by our Prime Minister publicly condemning the book and writing a letter on the same lines to Md. Ismail, the self-styled leader of the defunct Madras Muslim League.

"The Prime Minister's open condemnation of the book has served as a signal for the communal bandits to start countrywide riots and hooliganism.

"Our Prime Minister should not have publicly condemned this book and not at any cost addressed a letter on these lines to the President of the defunct Muslim League.

"However the murderous incidents have served as a blessing in disguise. They have clearly exhibited that in our country still there are people who owe allegiance to the other nation enjoying the fruits of our country."

HOWRAH. **M. A. Krishnamurthy.**

TIGER'S SPOTS

"We stand against colonialism—correct. We should support Egypt as an Asian country against the Anglo-French imperialistic designs is also correct. But to remind us, Nasser in his book, "Philosophy of Revolution" envisages a Block of Muslim Nations stretching from the Middle East to the African continent. This aim he has not rebutted even now. Let us not be blind in our support to Egypt. The price can be heavy today, as it will be heavy in the future. Another Sheikh Abdullah perhaps!"

MEERUT. **P. C. Bansal.**

WOOL-PULLER NEHRU

"Reacting to the downfall of the Mohammed Ali Cabinet in Pakistan Pandit Nehru

We have not yet come across a young and pretty girl asking us a favour that way. And we have been waiting to give ourselves away for fifty long years. God alone knows where producers meet girls who do that. And yet you see Nutan doing it in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a social theme.

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remarked that the "Muslim League has ceased to exist for all practical purposes even in the neighbouring country". And he added, "if there is any such thing in India I want its suppression not legal but moral". Everybody will agree with the former part of the Prime Minister's sentiment. But why the latter? What has the Muslim League left undone not yet to merit a legal ban?

"Regularly every year they hoist Pakistani flags on Independence day all over the country. Regularly every year they whip up some agitation to bring the Government's secularism into disrepute and kill some Hindus by the way. With brazen impunity they shout 'Pakistan Zindabad' and "Hindustan Murdabad". Frequently they defy and challenge even Pandit Nehru, the archangel of secularism, and give the call for 'jehad'. And occasionally they even throw bombs, just for the political fun of it. Is that not enough, Mr. Patel?

"If they can do all these things and yet carry on their activities with impunity they surely deserve to form a cabinet in India that is hardly Bharat. The Muslim League may be almost dead in Pakistan. But the Muslims are very much alive and kicking in Baghistan."

BOMBAY. **Dharamdas.**

INCURABLE DISEASE

"It was only in the August 1956 issue of your esteemed "filmindia" that Judas had written under the caption "Foreign Aid And Domestic Virtues" so vividly about espionage and Government employees. Now we read from the newspapers about the arrest of an employee of the External Affairs Ministry for alleged stealing of confidential papers and passing them on to a foreign agent.

"In this connection, "INSAF" writes in the "Hindustan Times" of the 25th September 1956, "The alleged leakage of secret official papers from the External Affairs Ministry has not come as a surprise to those who know the state of affairs in Delhi. It is said that there is not a cabinet paper which does not get

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When they start doing that they get Allah involved in their love affair. Chitra brings some much-needed piety to the screen in "Alamara", a costume tale of ancient love.

known within a few hours of its circulation and, of course, there is not a note on any file in any Ministry whose copy cannot be got for a price." This is, indeed, a very sorry state of affairs. It is high time that the authorities in Delhi woke up and at least took up your suggestions by reading carefully the article in your magazine."

SECUNDERABAD. **N. V. Prahlad.**

THEY READ AND FORGET

"That most of the officials in our capital live on "foreign aid" which was dwelt upon in the August issue of "filmindia" by Judas, is substantiated by a Government official being arrested on charge of having stolen the files containing the correspondence between the Prime Minister of India and Mr. Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt over the Suez Canal crisis. In what other ways, I am afraid, that these traitorous officials, feasting on the junk of foreigners not finding satisfaction in the life lived on the sweat of the Indian public, are betraying the country are as yet to be investigated and brought to daylight.

"The Government is like a proverbial fence which, intended to guard the crop against menace by men and cattle itself plays bear with the crop. Nehru deplores the "foreign aid" supposed to be received by some newspapers; but he never realises the wrongs of the officials of his Government.

"The authors on both sides of such disruptionist activities should be severely dealt with. Or else, the country, though famous and talked of highly abroad for its striving for progress at home and preservation of world peace abroad will be stabbed one day in its back with all its crowd of criminals in the Government.

"India has been rich in morals as can be seen from the epics as well as the lives of great persons of yore. It is a shame if a responsible man being paid decently for his job sacrifices his loyalty and service to the country in exchange of immoral luxuries by way of "foreign aid". It is a moral depravity. Such a man should not, under any circumstances, be spared.

"In this way if the Government allow the officials to continue their corrupt ways leading to the disruption of peace and progress of the country, it is not possible to ever put into shape a socialistic pattern of society.

"I am of the opinion that if the Government lent its ready ear to the forecast and valuable suggestions made by Mr. Baburao Patel from time to time and purified itself purifying the components of it, the country would soon progress into a Welfare State without the first and second Five-Year Plans of waste and earn real fame at home and abroad than the present flimsy one."

NARSAPUR. **S. Sriramamurty.**

This is a good exercise for stiff backs. Women do need strong backs to give the world a smiling face. Nimmi and Kum Kum show how much backs can be bent in "Basant Bahar", a fine romantic entertainment produced by Shri Vishwa Bharati Films.

OLD FRAUD

"In the dailies of 24th September there appears a news item from the P.T.I. which once again proves the utility of words printed in "filmindia". An assistant in the Ministry of External Affairs has been arrested with his wife under the Official Secrets Act for the removal of secret papers from the office files. Investigations are in progress. Nature of the papers has not been disclosed. There have been speculations about it in the papers which have been officially contradicted.

"And just a few weeks earlier than the appearance of this news Judas writes in "filmindia":

" 'It will be worth watching some of the Under Secretaries of the various Ministries. These men and their women are rarely invited to top parties which save drinks and dinners at home and bring home "foreign aid". They are the disgruntled ones. They know all the office papers by heart and give a demonstration of their wonderful memory at the slightest provocation. The lesser embassy officials befriend these people, give them occasional whiskey bottles and other presents like nylons, refrigerators, washing machines, etc., and help them with little loans to tide over domestic difficulties. This subtle "foreign aid" yields a very rich harvest for these Under Secretaries not only know the correspondence but also the mind of the Government.'

"Certainly "filmindia" is a magazine which knows. And if the high officials of our Government have any love for knowledge they should buy it regularly. They should think over its wise remarks again and again. The magazine will help them to discharge their duties patriotically."

JULLUNDUR. **S. Kumar.**

CONFESSION OF OLD CRIME

"The first sentence of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" says, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a young man in possession of a fortune must be in want of a wife." Had I been in Miss Austen's place I would have made a slightly different beginning and written: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that an old Minister in possession of power must be in want of a wife." Quite a few Central Ministers have already justified this statement.

"But I did not know that provincial ministers would also rush—even if at a very belated hour—to justify me. But Dame Rumour, that old, gossipy, omniscient lady, has it that Bengal's Chief Minister, B. C. Roy, who is only 74 years young, has recently taken the matrimonial plunge.

"When a reference to this "Roy-al" romance was made in the West Bengal Assembly the official answer was a cryptic "yes and no". Why this modesty? Is Roy ashamed of his age? If he is, he has a very good precedent in history. France's 83-year-old Richelieu was once walking by a street in Paris and saw a beautiful

God gives one shape to a woman, a child comes along and gives her another. God creates a sweetheart but the child creates a mother. A woman is never sure which she likes more: to be a young sweetheart or an old mother. See Bina Rai solving this problem in "Talaash", a romantic tale directed by Vishram Bedekar.

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young woman. With a sigh he murmured, 'Alas! If only I were eighty years young'!"

KALYAN. **H. G. Jugat.**

NATIONALIZE STUDENTS

"There is an increasing tendency nowadays on the part of the self-styled youth leaders and erstwhile politicians to provoke our students to start political agitation on any issue however trivial. Instead of solving the actual problems facing the student community, these political zealots either exploit the students for political ends or fritter away their energies and labour in unhealthy activities. Judas has done well in his "Students or Stooges" in the September issue to expose and highlight the vile and dirty game of this political exploitation of our immature and adolescent youth that is the wealth of our nation. Citing the excellent example of Japanese students his wise plea that our Government must take constructive steps to save our students from themselves and from the wicked designs of the politicians has not come a day too soon and deserves a worthy consideration.

"There is many a cause responsible for the growing unrest in the student community which our Government must tackle in order to solve the crucial problem of student indiscipline and the consequent falling in the standard of education. To quote a few these are: overcrowding in colleges; the absence of moral or religious instruction in schools or colleges; the adverse influence of bad films on impressionable minds; frustration due to lack of opportunity; lack of parental influence at home and closer teacher-student contact as a means to character building; lack of right thinking and lastly too much contact with active politics. The right path out of this morass lies, as Judas points out, in the least interference of active politicians with the students who must not be made pawns on any account in their dirty political game of strikes and violence. The more the students are left to themselves and their studies, the better will be their lot. Will the politicians heed?"

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

AGREE WITH YOU

"The question often rages in my mind whether the politicians at the helm of affairs have correctly understood the concept of law, despite the fact that many of them were able lawyers before they entered the political arena. I doubt whether we remember Johnson's words about law —"the law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public". And law besides being equitable should be more of a prohibitive nature than punitive. But our lawgivers appear to attach undue importance to this last aspect of a law without the least considering how best a crime could be avoided before they decide on how harshly a criminal could be sentenced. One could not help a preposterous suspicion crawling into the mind. Are our laws made with an eye to provide work for the courts of justice which have suffered a great setback due to the drastic changes in the Hindu Code that had been the mainstay of the lawyers? Are these laws more a covert ruse to fill our exchequer than an honest effort at the reformation of society?

"For example we shall see the working of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in the Madras State. The purpose of the Act is to protect the health of the public by punishing those who dare to pollute food stuffs. It must be taken note of here that despite its lengthy and boastful title there is no actual prevention of adulteration. When one is prosecuted under this Act, punishment is the inevitable sequence. It would only be in the fitness of things, if it is renamed as punishment for food adulteration act. Thus a noble aim defeated as its corollary seems to be the harassment of a section of people who carry on trade on a small scale to earn a livelihood. And it also gives unscrupulous officials an opportunity to exploit this Act to suit their selfish interests.

"Allow me, sir, to cite a single instance to prove my contention. Turmeric, we all know, is being extensively used in the toilet of women and also for culinary and medicinal purposes. The health authorities take a sample of turmeric fingerlings from a petty dealer to see whether there is any violation of the Act. Obviously, it appears to be pure and perfect to the bare eye. If the health inspector himself is unable to detect any impurity, so must be the retail dealer. Hence the sample is sent to the Government analyst for testing. The analyst here finds that the sample of turmeric contains lead of more than 25 parts in a million. The fact comes to light then, that to attract buyers this lead is added to turmeric as it imparts to it a fine polish and bright colour. It is not definitely known where this adulteration could have taken place. Nor could it be asseverated that this negligible amount of lead could affect one's health adversely. It is only known that lead is a cumulative poison and injurious to health.

"Is this not fantastic when the blame could not be laid definitely at any particular door—manufacturer, wholesale dealer or retail merchant—to punish the innocent provision merchants by imprisonments and fines, for a crime the very existence of which they are unaware of and which could not be detected either at sight or by testing.

"Though bitter experience has taught us that it is vain to expostulate with those in power, the plight of these petty dealers in grocery impels me to seek the hospitality of your esteemed columns to redress their grievances. Let the Government come forward and say that the retail dealers should straightaway contact the cultivator to obtain their requirements. Or let it be ordained that they must satisfy themselves of the purity of the goods before the purchase, if necessary by employing an analyst on their staff. No matter whether these could be afforded to!

"It might be asked of me whether dishonest people should be allowed to go scot-free? It might also be pointed out

how our country has failed to develop good business traditions and thus alienated our export markets. I do agree that consummate men of business are a rarity. But this is not the way out.

"The solution lies in giving "Aagmark" certificates to every foodstuff at the manufacturing stage itself. If adulteration is indulged in, even after this process, the culprits could be brought to book with justice. Then only the Act would serve its laudable purpose. Then only we could claim to have honoured the maxim that it is better to allow a thousand criminals to escape than suffer one innocent to be punished."

MADRAS. **Smt. Vijaya Subramaniam.**

CRIME PAYS

"The Government of India's "Certificate of Merit" to Raj Kapoor's "Shri 420" must have come as a surprise to many an intelligent picturegoer.

"Even as a Raj Kapoor fan I fail to understand as to what prompted our Government to select this picture for state recognition. As it was, the picture had nothing extraordinary or even ordinary (excepting some clowning acrobatics of the main character and a little bit of moral at the end, which of course, every Indian picture has to get through the censors) in it to make the picture worthy of selection for the state award.

"Would you mind telling us Mr. Patel, the qualifications of the picture which entitled it for winning the state award?"

BOMBAY. **Vashdev G. Dayalani.**

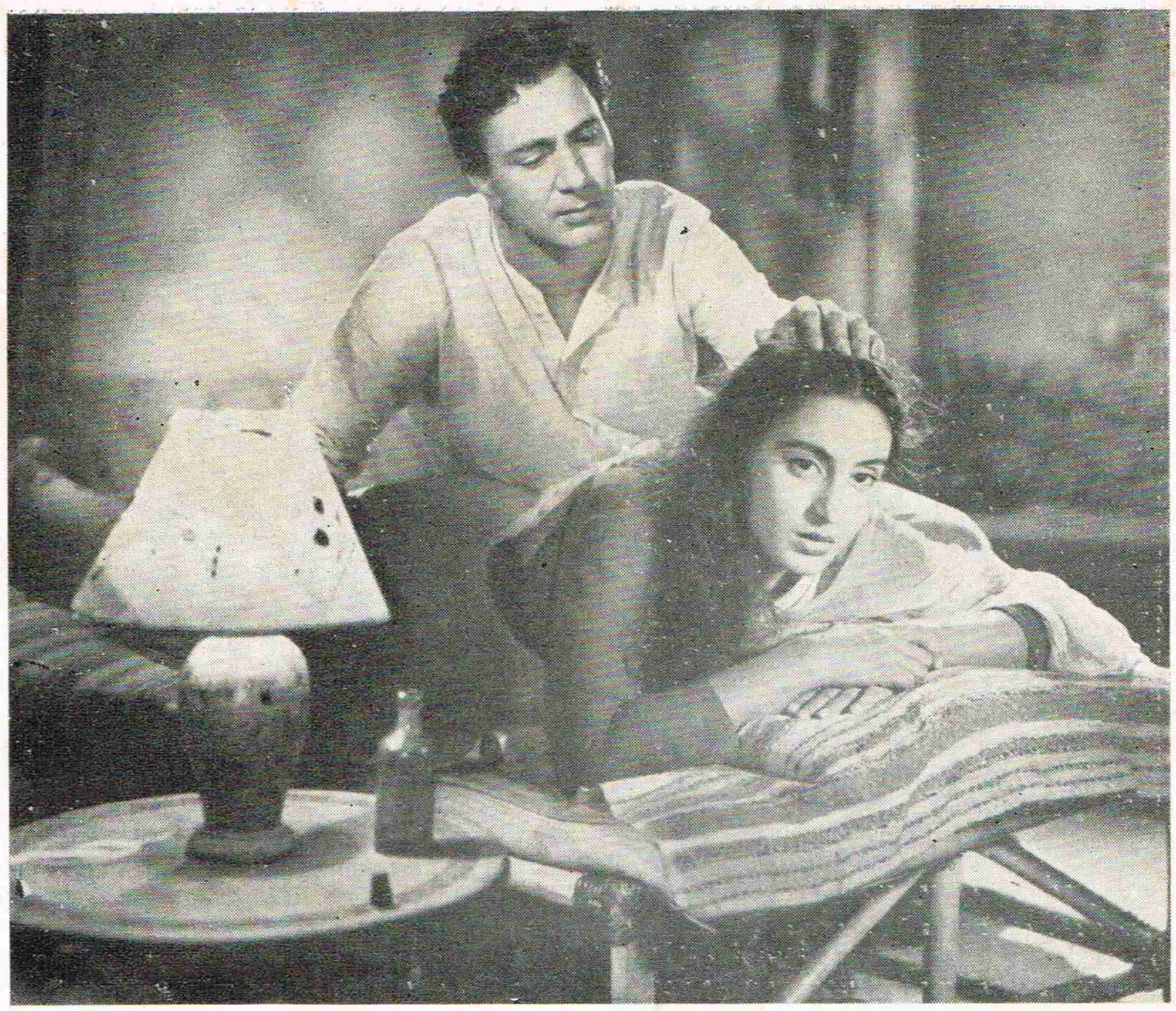
SAVING HIGH FREIGHTS

"There is intense political activity going on in a certain capital of the world in relation to the Suez Canal crisis.

"Have you guessed, Mr. Patel, which that capital is? No, it is not London, for which the Suez is "a matter of life and death". No, it is not even Cairo, which declared its determination to hold the Canal with the last drop of blood. Yes, it is New Delhi, the hotbed of dynamic neutralism, aggressive internationalism, high sounding panchshila and the rest of the stuff.

"Of course, I am patriotic enough to take off my non-Gandhi cap to Pandit Nehru for exploiting Suez to build up international prestige but still I fail to understand why he is more worked up on the matter than Nasser on the one hand and Eden on the other. Neither is the Suez on Indian soil, nor is India, like England, "doomed" without the Canal, nor even is India a major user of the waterway. Then why these 'tikadams' in our foreign ministry? Either because Foreign Minister Nehru could not find anything more foreign to the interest of the Indian masses or because Minister without-anything-to-do Krishna Menon just got tired of staying at home!"

BOMBAY. **S. P. Mansharamani.**



A young woman becomes old in a minute when she meets a man twice her age. A woman's romance takes its colour from the age of the man she meets. This one between Balraj Sahni and Nutan has taken a gray hue in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a social theme.

HULLO, NEHRU!

"In spite of all talks on cultivation of swadeshi outlook our government itself does not seem to come forward to help swadeshi industries. I am referring to a Government of India advertisement published in "The Hindu" dated 25th September 1956 calling for the tender for the supply of goods to N.E.F.A. Administration, in which I am rather surprised to find that besides other items, even biscuits and soaps manufactured by foreign companies are preferred, though equally good quality of the same goods are manufactured in India by swadeshi firms. When the government itself do not seem to patronise Indian industries how can we expect our people to patronise them?"

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

SADHUISM IS BUSINESS

"Some days back a daily paper published a picture of some sadhus of Sadhu Samaj calling on Pandit Nehru. Is this not a reversal of the traditional practice of political leaders calling upon religious leaders? And another picture carried by "Bharat Sevak" showed Shri Nanda sitting on a raised platform while sadhus squatted on the ground listening to him.

"These small things are a significant indication of how the government looks at our sadhus. There is no recognition of their spiritual merit, only an anxiety to use them for attracting the religious-minded vote.

"I think no sadhu worth the name will play the hanger-on."

ADIPUR. **Kumari Ratna.**

BURN THEM NEXT TIME

"Some days back I saw the picture "Shrimati 420" in one of the district towns. Of course, the theatre was usually packed with villagers. The villagers were anxious to see that picture and hence they had come with their families. When the picture was over, the villagers started abusing the producer, the story writer and even the manager of that theatre for exhibiting such a stupid picture.

"When I contacted some villagers personally and asked them what was wrong in the picture, they told me that the producer wants our wives to become immoral. Where was our Censor Board?

"Is it entertainment or degradation of our women folk?"

BOMBAY. **Samuel Hannock.**

A woman who can balance herself so well and not tremble is not likely to be scared in the presence of her husband. Vyjayantimala gives a good performance in "New Delhi", a social story directed by Mohan Segal.

BALU'S UTILITY

"I have a friend here, whose wisdom about men and matters has never been questioned by our local people. While everybody tunes in his radio when he is at home, my friend switches on his radio only when he goes out! I was at a loss to know what his intentions were.

"One day I asked him what the reason was. He said he wanted to avoid thieves. I told him that I could not understand what he meant. His reply was that radio creates only noise nowadays which can drive out thieves. He said that thieves will run away in the belief that somebody is in the house. This is how he uses noise to drive away thieves! Radio is useful to him only in this manner. Does it not sound strange?"

MADURAI. **S. P. Raman.**

CHAI SHARANAM GACHHAMI

"While recently Shri Purshottamdas Tandon was demanding in Parliament that drinking wine should be banned, Smt. Shivajwati Nehru rose to say that drinking of tea should also be banned. Alas, the drink that inebriates and the one that does not are sought to be thrust in the same category. I am a teetotaller, but must I also become a teatotaller?

"What makes me sadder is that according to a Chinaman preparing and drinking tea is one of the seven occupations of a cultured person. And if a Chinaman doesn't know about tea, who does, except the Indian Tea Board? So if we stop drinking tea we stop the easiest way of becoming cultured. And what with 2500 years of Buddha, his second and official reincarnation in the year 1956, so many "cultural" delegations making pleasure trips to foreign countries and song and dance filling the very welkin, culture is obviously the first thing we are after. So I would entreat Smt. Nehru not to weaken Mr. Nehru's cultural hands by seeking to ban the cup that brims with culture."

KALYAN. **Mrs. Lalitadevi Jugat.**

PAYING TAMASHAS

"Under the title "Our Cultural Tamashas" in the September issue Judas relates the sad inside story as to how our so-called "cultural" delegations have been sent abroad, the delegates mostly selected without any thought or imagination as to their cultural background or artistic equipment. As a result, these "cultural" delegations have proved nothing more than scandals, failing as Judas says, "in their basic purpose" of manifesting some of India's lofty, cultural and artistic traditions to the countries abroad and thus lowering India's prestige rather than enhancing it.

"The latest cultural circus is led by Anil Chanda. It is rather strange that leaving three artistes the rest of the thirty artistes are never heard of in our own country. How can they be expected to represent the best that India can offer in the realm of art, music and dance? Besides, Rabindrasangeet or Shantiniketan cultural prayers may appeal to limited audiences in our country but to larger audiences abroad they have a doubtful entertainment value. It is high time the Indian Council of Cultural Relations is guided by a committee of experts who can advise, help and guide in selecting personnel who are truly great exponents of their own art viz. classical music, Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kathak, Manipuri, dance drama, folk-music, etc. Let these artistes be of all India renown, with cultural background and artistic equipment so as to be India's true cultural ambassadors abroad. Or else, as Judas says, why should we have these "cultural tamashas" abroad and spoil the fair name of India?"

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

SELF PRAISE

"A writer said, "Readers can be classed into four: SPONGES, who absorb all they read and return it nearly in the same state only a little dirtier; SANDGLASSES, who retain nothing and are content going through a book for the sake of getting through the time; STRAINBAGS, who retain only the dregs of what they read; MOGHUL DIAMONDS, equally rare and valuable who profit by what they read and enable others to profit by it." Don't you think the readers of "filmindia" are Moghul diamonds the way they utilize their talents to get profit and also entertain others?"

MADRAS. **K. A. Krishnan.**

FUNDS FOR ELECTIONS

"A U.P.I. report recently published states that over a lakh of swords and a huge stock of firearms including guns, revolvers and pistols seized from the Razakars during and after Police Action are causing a headache to the Hyderabad Police and a Departmental Committee of Police Officials recently decided to fix a price for each of them and sell them to those who would like to keep them as "souvenirs".

"A wonderful idea and a wonderful "souvenir" indeed! It is completely beyond my imagination and everybody's imagination too how the committee of responsible Police Officials, who are custodians of law and order, could arrive at this irresponsible decision, which in effect means disposing the swords and firearms to the same source from which they were seized once after a large scale military action."

HOWRAH. **M. A. Krishnamurthy.**

CAPSULED AND SAVED

"In Ahmedabad four student leaders who were leading the anti-bilingual state agitation met the Congress President Dhebar and expressed regret for the incident that took place on the previous night at the Congress House where, it is said, a crowd mobbed Dhebarji and flung his cap in the air. But Dhebarji told the students that expressing regret at what had happened was not enough and the students should make efforts to re-establish the prestige of the white cap. Thereupon one of them immediately borrowed Dhebarji's cap and put it on his own head. The other three students followed the lead and borrowed white caps from other Congressmen present and put them on their heads.

"Is this what they meant by re-establishing the prestige of the white cap, I wonder?"

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

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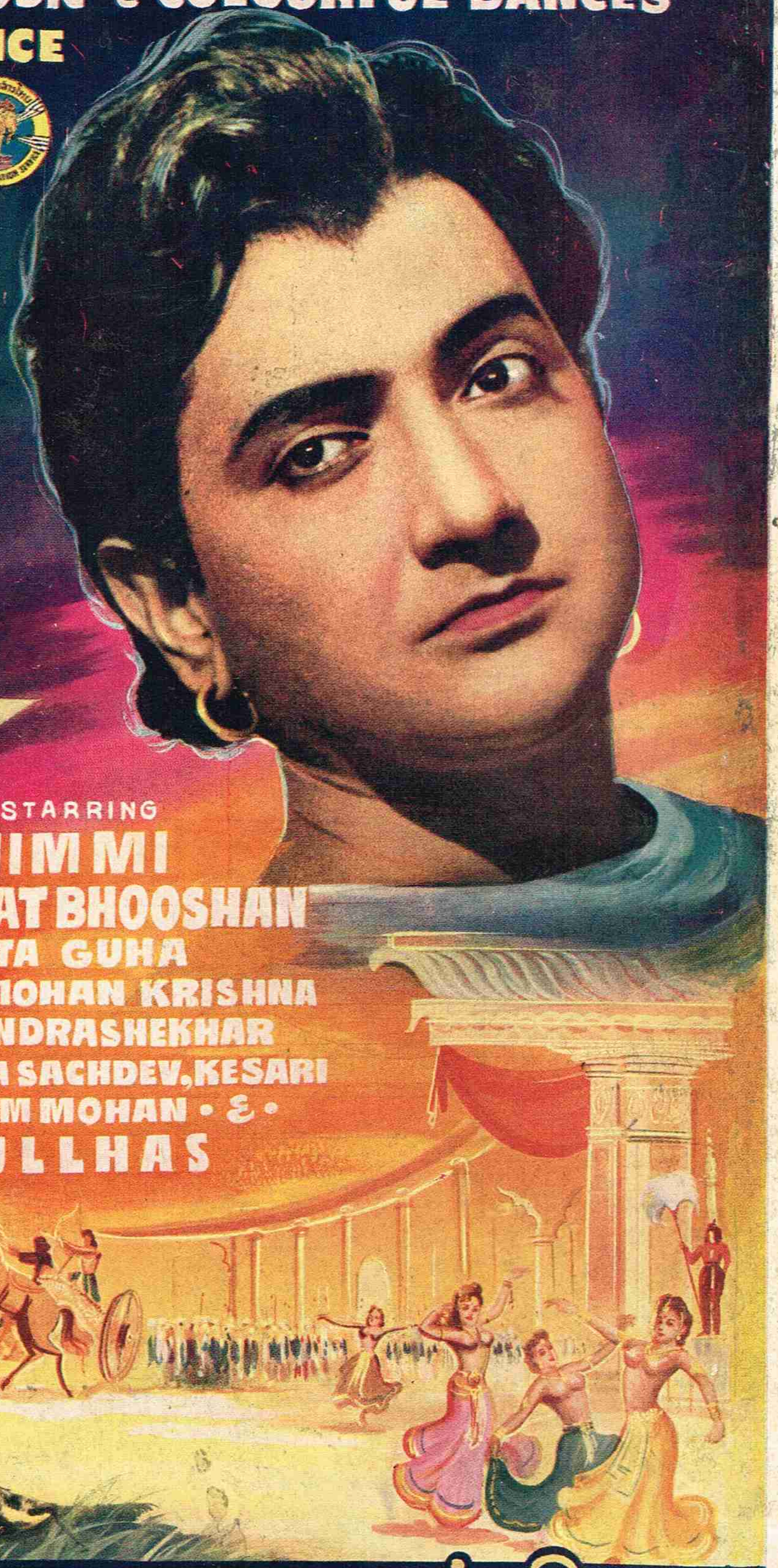

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